Study of place names in Missoula County, Montana

Don Bert Omundson

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A STUDY OF PLACE NAMES IN
MISSOULA COUNTY, MONTANA

by

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requirements for the degree of
Master of Arts

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION ......................................................... 1
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MISSOULA COUNTY ................. 13
CHAPTER ONE: Dictionary of Place Names ....................... 15
CHAPTER TWO: Classes of Place Names ......................... 155
   1. Borrowed Names ............................................. 156
   2. Historical Names ........................................... 160
   3. Personal Names ............................................. 169
   4. Environmental Names ....................................... 179
   5. Subjective Names .......................................... 186
   Appendix: Unsolved Names .................................... 188
CHAPTER THREE: Philological Aspects of Place Names ....... 189
   1. Composition of Place Names ............................... 190
   2. Linguistic Features ....................................... 194
   3. Changes in Place Names ................................... 196
APPENDIX A .......................................................... 201
APPENDIX B: Dialect Words and Americanisms ................. 202
BIBLIOGRAPHY ......................................................... 220
INTRODUCTION

Ye say they all have passed away
That noble race and brave;
That their light canoes have vanish'd,
From off the crested wave;
That, mid the forests where they roam,
There rings no hunter's shout,
But their name is on your waters,
Ye may not wash it out...1

Place name study is an interesting and rewarding
field of research. "There is no part of the world," said
Robert Louis Stevenson, "where nomenclature is so rich,
poetical, humorous, and picturesque as in the United States
of America."2 This thesis is dedicated to tracing the
origins of a minute segment of the geographical nomenclature
included in Stevenson's far reaching observation. A present
study of Missoula County nomenclature seems particularly
appropriate since the population center and county seat,
Missoula, has recently concluded its Centennial (1860-1960)
celebration.

Place name study does not entail simply a compilation
of word origins and a resultant dictionary listing of indi­
vidual facts. In themselves these facts are only valuable
to the extent that they supply scattered bits of regional
history. They may be compared to the specimens which are

1Lydia Sigourney, "Indian Names," cited by George R.
Stuart, Names on the Land (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company,
1958), p. 64.

2H. L. Mencken, The American Language (second edi­
collected and labeled by the botanist. An effective, meaningful place name investigation must relate these isolated fragments of linguistic history to the geographical nomenclature of an area.

Nor is the value of modern place name study limited to the fields of etymology and philology. Historians are the most indebted beneficiaries of a field of study which supplies, clarifies, or substantiates historical findings. The very histories of the original Indian settlements, the mountain men, the prospectors, the advent of Christianity, foreign influences, and the coming of the homesteaders are reflected respectively in such words as Missoula, Rattlesnake Creek, Gold Creek, Frenchtown, and Mormon Peak. Graves Creek Ridge as a name is of interest to the archaeologist as it suggests the Indian burial grounds located on top of the ridge. Social scientists are being led to a better understanding of the growth and development of our nation's culture through the aid of nomenclature studies which point to the conditions, activities, and life of a people. The origins of Wagon Mountain and Sappho Creek should be of interest to anyone attracted by folklore and mythology.

But aside from its contributions to various cultural fields, the major purpose of place name study is to establish permanency in place name designations. Often, several years elapse before a particular name "sticks." As an example, we need but refer to the Clark Fork River whose
previous appellations include Pen d'Orelllep Kallspellj, Flathead, Missoula, Hellgate, and Deerlodge.

Such a thesis as mine represents one of the ways in which conclusive names are determined, one small but significant aspect of a nationwide attempt to fix geographical nomenclature through federal and local surveys, the publications of authoritative government maps, and the renderings of the United States Geographic Board. The final decision on the Clark Fork issue mentioned above was that of the Geographic Board. In its decisions this organization follows a general principle of accepting established local custom, when custom is established, even if the custom is contrary to etymology.

Names are applied only by agreement and convention and though natural causes may suggest a name, proximity to a view, a mountain, a bay, or what not, yet only common acceptance of such a name can root it in common use.³

Place name study is still a relatively new and untouched area in scholastic research. In England Henry Bradley pioneered the work in geographical nomenclature studies with methods superior to the feeble, haphazard ventures before the twentieth century. The sudden increased activity in individual research led to the organization of the English Place Name Society in 1920. This society followed the examples of similar organizations in Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, and Denmark in laying down the

general principles for the proposed place name survey. The most important contribution to English place name research is Professor Ekwall's *The Concise Oxford English Dictionary of Place Names*, which was first published in 1936.

Due to the relatively short period of white settlement in the United States, problems of Americans in determining name origins are significantly simplified. Our task is not as complicated as that facing the English researcher because we are not ordinarily required to trace the etymology of a word to its Anglo-Saxon origins. Our names have not been subject to any vast changes in linguistic environment, the one exception being those derived from foreign extractions. Therefore, place name investigation in our country invariably is limited to a one-step process, that of taking the existing form of the name and determining the meaning of its origin.

Notwithstanding the advantage we have over the English, progress has been slow following the introductory American study by Henry Gannett in 1902. Gannett's work, *The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*, is regarded as a classic in the place name study of natural and cultural features in all parts of the United States.

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But regardless of its greatness as a landmark in the field of nomenclature study, Gannett's work is a prime example of over-confidence and lack of scientific procedures. In the field of scientific place name study "caution is the first lesson to be learned for many facile conclusions have been discredited through advancing knowledge." 7

In 1925, Henry Alexander wrote, "Very little has been done towards attacking the complicated problem of the origin of American place names." 8 Up to 1930, study in this field was held back by the sparse nature of investigation and the lack of significance in most of the published works. American studies of geographical nomenclature had been merely compilations of origins, no attempt having been made to synthesize these results in terms of their philological, historical, social, or cultural implications or patterns. 9

The initial attempt at a scholarly, comprehensive approach, an attempt which established place name research as a distinct field of study, was made in 1928 by the department of English at the University of Missouri under the supervision of Robert L. Ramsey. The plans in Missouri, which were carried out by 1946, were for a comprehensive

7 "The Significance of Place-Names," loc. cit.

8 Henry Alexander, "The New Advance in Place-name Study," Queen's Quarterly, XXXIII (October-December, 1925), 194.

survey and investigation of the entire state conducted by
graduate students in fulfillment of thesis requirements for
the M. A. in English. Other states have adopted programs
of nomenclature study similar to that of Missouri, but pres-
ently only 7 of our 50 states have a comprehensive scholarly
guide to the origins of the names within their boundaries.
These states include Missouri, Oregon, Minnesota, South
Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, and Arizona.

Any of these studies could serve as an excellent
guide or example for future workers in this field: (1) R.
L. Ramsey, Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place-names;
(2) W. C. Barnes, Arizona Place Names; (3) Warren Upham,
Minnesota Geographic Names; (4) L. A. McArthur, Oregon Ge-
ographic Names; (5) U. S. Writer's Program, South Dakota
Place Names; (6) E. S. Meany, Origin of Washington Geo-
graphic Names; and (7) Hamill Kenny, West Virginia Place
Names.10

In addition to these major studies, a considerable
number of popular articles on some very limited aspect of
nomenclature study have been written in newspapers, period-
icals, and private publications. The articles are listed
under the state headings in Sealock and Seeley's Bibliog-
raphy of Place Name Literature.11 These normally brief

10Refer to bibliography for publication place, com-
pany, and date on the above studies.

11Richard B. Sealock and Pauline A. Seeley (eds.),
Bibliography of Place Name Literature (Chicago: American
Library Association, 1943).
commentaries vary between the extremes of a general discussion of the study of place names to a thorough investigation of some one specific name. Because there has been no uniformity of procedure, there is much overlapping and duplication of thought.

Montana is unfortunately one of those states in which no organized movement has been initiated to recapture and preserve the origins of geographical nomenclature. Aside from short articles on particular phases such as Indian origins, only two major reference works are available. The first of these was compiled by Jesse Perry Rowe, a one-time professor in the Geology department of Montana State University; it was published as a part of a larger geological work. The second is a listing of certain place name origins in Montana's national forest regions and wilderness areas compiled by various past employees of the United States Forest Service. Neither of these works, however, approaches completeness in the areas surveyed. It is hoped that this study will approach this completeness and will provide a stimulant to the further study of place names in other Montana counties.

My initial research work consisted of a thorough

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13 United States Forest Service bulletin. Refer to bibliography.
examination of the secondary source material available at the State Historical Library in Helena, the Missoula Public Library, and the Montana State University library, where I examined all state and county histories, journals of early travels and settlement, maps, atlases, directories, unpublished manuscripts of local significance, and files of newspaper clippings.

When I had exhausted all possible information from such secondary sources, I went out into the field and began conducting personal interviews, striving to find those local historians likely to be of assistance. I interviewed these people first as they occasionally had access to secondary source material not available in a library; they were also able to direct me to various long-time residents of the county.

My procedure in conducting personal interviews frequently followed the "trial and error" pattern. Although one informant's knowledge may have been quite limited, he could usually direct me to an acquaintance whose experiences and memory gave me the needed information. People would generally agree upon who was the most authoritative individual in their area. A person's authoritative value was largely dependent upon the length of time he or some member of his family had lived in the region, his interest in the history of the locality, and the accuracy of his memory.

To attain the highest assurance of accuracy, I checked oral evidence, whenever possible, with another per-
son's statements or with written or printed records or with both. I had to rely upon common sense judgments for the validity of several origins. For example, I was able to discard the theory that a certain Camp Creek was named for an old camp ground when conflicting evidence revealed that S. A. Camp, an early trapper, had once lived in that vicinity.

With few exceptions, the people whom I have approached have shown immediate interest in the local historical significance of this study and have responded readily with whatever they can recall. But regardless of the general co-operation evidenced in my series of personal interviews, place name research in Missoula County has definite limitations. There are no longer many "oldtimers" in the county who are capable of supplying direct (or even indirect) testimony to the origins of place names. As the majority of names originated between 1880 and 1920, the person who can furnish reliable first-hand information would usually have to be at least sixty years old. If place name research is not conducted on an extensive scale in Montana within the next decade, many of the origins will have been irretrievably lost.

Additional limitations were imposed on this study. For example, many of the natural features in this sparsely settled mountainous country are not accessible from highways or secondary roads. As a result, I was unable to follow the example of Professor Ekwall who, in England, "drove round to
have a look at nearly all the rivers in the land" before recording their origins.

However, in spite of these and other handicaps, I have been able to find some explanation for every one of the 472 Missoula County place names on my original list except 34 which are itemized as "unknowns" at the end of Chapter II. Those names whose origins remained unsolved after repeated inquiry represent only 7 per cent of the total number of names included in my research. In some very few instances, though the actual origin of a name could not be ascertained (e.g. Soudan), sufficient historical data was available to justify including the name in the dictionary. There are of course other limitations necessarily imposed on my study. For example, many of the people cited in this thesis can be given only partial names, usually their surnames; their full names are forever lost and forgotten. Occasionally, however, a colorful character like "Dirty Ike" is remembered by his Christian name or nickname.

In organizing my material, I have followed the procedure suggested by Robert L. Ramsey in his "Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place Names." Accordingly, it is arranged under three chapter headings.

Following this introduction is the dictionary proper.

14 "The Significance of Place-Names," loc. cit.

15 Robert L. Ramsey, "Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place-Names," The University of Missouri Studies, IX, i, January 1, 1934.
an alphabetical list of all the names studied. Township and range designations are entered after each name. Creeks and rivers are designated in this way by the location of their mouth whenever possible. Thereafter, I have entered a descriptive location of the natural or artificial feature (e.g., About 6 miles w. of the entrance to Hell Gate Canyon,) and an account of the origin of the name. Distances given are approximated and, unless otherwise specified, are "as the crow flies."

In the interests of brevity and simplicity, all documentation in this dictionary is presented parenthetically rather than in footnotes. For the same reason I have in the dictionary used an abbreviated system rather than the more unwieldy MLA form, e.g., standard reference works such as Lieutenant John Mullan’s Report on the Construction of a Military Road from Walla-Walla to Fort Benton, Washington, 1863, is in the dictionary referred to repeatedly by surname and short title only. My bibliography gives of course complete information for every reference so cited. Cross references offer the reader ready access to historically significant place names now obsolete.

The second chapter classifies all of the names according to their origin; the names are grouped as Borrowed, Historical, Personal, Environmental, and Subjective. The third chapter studies the names with respect to philological characteristics, including composition and linguistic features. The chapter concludes with a survey of the reasons
for changes in certain names.

Following the text, Appendix B lists alphabetically the dialect words and Americanisms included in the list of names. The Bibliography at the end recognizes the people who, either through personal interviews or correspondence, supplied the major portion of the place name origins in Chapter I. It also includes such documentary sources as journals of early exploration, burial records, and miscellaneous notes of specific place name origins.

Secondary source material was divided into four areas: Histories, Geographical References, General References, and Previous Place Name Studies. Historical sources consisted of general histories of Montana, regional and county histories, newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and pamphlets. The historical maps under Geographical References were used to more accurately determine the year in which a number of place names originated. The dictionaries listed under General References provided the definitions for the dialect words and Americanisms in the Glossary (Appendix B). The final division, Previous Place Name Studies, includes not only the studies themselves, but also published articles commenting on the past accomplishments, present position, and future possibilities of research in this new field.

I am indebted to all who have so liberally given their time and their knowledge. The mere listing of their names does not give the recognition due them for their generous assistance.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF MISSOULA COUNTY

The word "Missoula" has an interesting etymology, but its historical significance is of equal interest:

The history of Missoula County is peculiar. It has at different times comprised a portion of four territories and five counties. First of Oregon Territory which was organized by an act of Congress, August, 1848, and included within its limits all that portion of Montana lying on the west side of the main range of the Rockies. 1853--Oregon was divided and the portion including Montana fell to the lot of Washington Territory. The first legislature of Washington created the County of Clark extending from a point on the Columbia River below Fort Vancouver to the summit of the Rockies. Clark County was divided, Skamania created and of it we became a portion. Next, the legislature divided Skamania and made us a part of the new Walla Walla County. Walla Walla was divided and Spokane County created. To its lot we fell with the County seat at Colville.

In 1860--on December 14th--Missoula County was made out of part of Spokane County and the county seat located at the trading place of Worden & Company, Hellgate. Missoula County originally embraced within her limits all those portions of the present Missoula and Deer Lodge Counties lying west of the main range of the Rocky Mountains. Idaho Territory was organized in 1863 and Missoula became one of its counties. May 26th, 1864, Congress created Montana Territory. The first legislature at Bannack on February 2nd, 1865, created the County of Missoula, Montana, with the county seat at Hellgate. 15

The original nine Montana counties established by the First Territorial Legislature in 1865 were Missoula, Beaverhead, Deer Lodge, Madison, Jefferson, Gallatin, Edgerton, Choteau, and Big Horn. In 1889 Missoula County comprised

the entire northwestern portion of the newly formed state of Montana. The original county boundaries now enclose Lincoln, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli counties along with portions of Flathead, Powell, Granite, Beaverhead, Deerlodge, and Glacier counties. Four counties (Flathead, Granite, Ravalli, and Powell) had been created previous to Ronan's "Historical Sketch of Northwestern Montana and Missoula." Since that time, the five remaining counties have been formed: Sanders, 1906; Lincoln, 1909; Mineral, 1914; Glacier, 1919; Lake, 1923.16

CHAPTER I

A DICTIONARY OF MISSOULA COUNTY PLACE NAMES

This dictionary is limited to names of natural features, settlements, railroad sidings, and sites of historical significance. Names of churches, schools, bridges, and ranches have not been considered distinctive names of places and have been excluded from this study.

Aber Mountain

T13N R18W. Bordering Hellgate Canyon on the s.
Honoring Professor W. M. Aber, chairman of the Department of Latin and Greek at Montana State University at the time of his death in September, 1919. Aber had taught at the University since 1895. The Sentinel notes in memoriam: "The students have named in his honor Aber Day, which is probably the most unique college tradition observed in this country." (The 1920 Sentinel, Vol. XVII; Butte Miner, November 19, 1919, p. 2, col. 1)

Albert Creek

T14N R22W. Tributary of Clark Fork River. (See Albert Mountain)

Albert Mountain

T14N R22W. App. \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile s.e. of Albert Creek. Named after Alexander Albert (pronounced without the "t")
who came with his family from Canada in the late 1870's and settled in Frenchtown. During their first winter in this country, the Albert family settled and trapped along the creek which bears their name. The community of Alberton in Mineral Co. is also connected with an unidentified member of this family. (Mrs. Nora Albert)

Albino Creek

T21N R15W. Tributary of Big Salmon Creek. The name was bestowed by some traveler in the area for the extremely rare albino elk. An albino elk was seen in the vicinity by the person volunteering this information. (R. W. Wilhelm)

Allen Creek

T12N R18W. Flows into the Clark Fork River 3 miles w. of Clinton. Named for Silas Allen who, with his family, settled on the creek in 1918. (Frank Bonner)

Alma Lake

T18N R16W. Located 6½ miles n.w. of Seeley Lake. Mr. Wooley, one of the civil engineers who ran the survey for the Butte, Anaconda, and Pacific R. R. in 1893 or 1894, named this lake after one of his two daughters. (W. K. Samsel)

Previous Name: (one of the Clearwater Lakes) Name transferred from the Clearwater River which drains this lake and neighboring lakes. (See Clearwater River)
Alpine Lake (See Sapphire Lake)

Anderson Gulch
T12N R21W. N. branch of Lolo Creek drainage. Robert Anderson, a bachelor, settled there in 1886. The homestead was taken over by a nephew after Anderson's death. (Mrs. Edna Tucker)

Angel's Bathing Pool
T18N R17W. Headwaters of the Swan River in the Mission Range wilderness area. In the latter 1920's, "Cap" Eli Laird looked at the steep rock cliffs surrounding the nearly inaccessible lake and exclaimed, "Hell, only an angel could get out of there." He later decided on the name "Angel's Bathing Pool." Laird, the original owner of a tourist lodge on Lindbergh Lake, named many lakes in his extensive travels through this rugged country. (John Stark)

Archibald Creek
T17N R15W. Small drainage rising in the w. and flowing into Seeley Lake. Received its name from a Hewey Archibald who had a cabin at the head of Seeley Lake. Archibald was an old Scotch fisherman whose nickname was "Scotty." (W. K. Samsel; Dr. W. E. Thieme)

Ashby Creek
T13N R16W. Smaller branch of Union Creek rising in the Garnet Range. Namesake of R. S. Ashby who came from Potomac, Virginia, in 1893. Ashby named Potomac,
a small town a short distance e. of the mouth of the creek, after the Virginia settlement. (Butte Miner /Holiday Edition/, p. 8.)

Auggie Creek

T17N R15W. Emptying into Seeley Lake directly below the Seeley Lake Ranger Station. Named by or after August ("Auggie") Riggert, who was the Seeley Lake Forest Ranger from 1917 to 1925. Riggert came to Montana in 1913. (W. K. Samsel)

Babcock Lake

T19N R15W. Small mountain lake at the headwaters of Babcock Creek which flows e. into Powell Co. In memory of William Babcock who came to the Seeley Lake country with a man named Marshall from the East in 1900. Babcock was a trapper and homesteader. (Dr. W. E. Thieme)

Barber Creek

T20N R16W. Tributary of the Swan River. Exact origin unknown, but it was apparently the name of a man of French descent, as an earlier spelling of this creek’s name was Barbour, a surname still widely current throughout Montana today. (R. W. Wilhelm)

Barrier Falls

T21N R15W. On the Big Salmon Creek in the n.e. corner of Missoula Co. So designated because the fish cannot get above these falls. (R. W. Wilhelm)

Bean Hole Lake
TL\&N R17W. Diminutive lake at the base of Lindy Peak in the Mission Range. Name given by "Cap" Eli Laird (See Angel's Bathing Pool) around 1930 because the lake is shaped like a bean pod. (Mrs. John Stark)

Beavertail Hill

TL\&N R16W. Located in the s.e. corner of Missoula Co., 3 miles e. of Bonita Ranger Station. This natural feature has been called a butte, point, and hill, the present "hill" being adopted by the stage drivers in the 1870's. (W. K. Samsel)

Previous Name: Beaver-tail Point. Lieutenant John Mullan called it by this name and gave it the following description: "This is a tolerably high and steep hill which will require some work to make it practicable for heavy wagon; the hill forms a single spur of one-half mile in width [the beaver's tail], terminating at the river in a perpendicular bluff." (Mullan's Military Road, November 24, 1859, p. 112)

The section of this point or hill projecting into the river from the right bank was called Beaver Dam because of its natural function in diverting the Clark Fork River and damming up a certain amount of water in the "elbow" thus formed. In his proposals for a railroad, Mullan observes, "A tunnel of about three hundred yards would be necessary through the spur called the Beaver Dam." (Mullan's Military Road, September 26, 1860, p. 157.)
Previous Indian Name: **Tzis-t-k.** The dried leaves and ripened seeds of the bunch grass which grew profusely over this hill made a peculiar whirring or whistling noise in a strong wind. The Indians, hearing this odd sound, called the hill "Tzis-t-k," this being their interpretation of the sound produced.

*(Will Cave, "This Cave Article Tells of Our Names," *Missoulian*, June 4, 1922.)*

**Beecher Creek**

T17N R24W. Minor tributary of Ninemile Creek. William ("Billy") Beach had a placer mine near the creek which was later purchased by Patrick McElligott (father of the person interviewed) and Frank Woody, one of the original founders of Hell Gate. In 1891 Beach acquired one-third interest in the "Little Giant" lode on Ninemile Creek. *(Patrick McElligott; Missoula burial records)*

**Beeskove Creek**

T14N R18W. Flows into Rattlesnake Creek 1 mile s.w. of the former site of Franklin Ranger Station. Name adopted by the Forest Service in recognition of William Beeskove, a former settler and trapper, who homesteaded on this creek. Beeskove was a colorful character and was known locally as "Coyote Bill" because, as one person was supposed to have explained, "He was the sneakin'est man that ever was." After killing a lumberman named Berg in a bitter quarrel, he was sentenced to eight years in the federal peni-
tentary. Later, Beeskove reportedly committed suicide by slashing his wrists and throwing himself into the Clark Fork River. (Forrest H. Poe)

Benedict Creek

T17N R15W. Joins with the Clearwater River app. 2 miles n. of Seeley Lake. A Forest Service adoption honoring a past employee, Benedict, who worked in the Seeley Lake division some time previous to 1912. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Bertha Creek

T19N R16W. High mountain creek flowing into Summit Lake. James Girard named this creek after his sister-in-law, Bertha Hammond James. (W. K. Samsel)

Big Lake

T15N R18W. Lake #3 in Montana Power’s system of storage lakes above Rattlesnake Dam. (See Sheridan Lake) Obviously so named with the idea of comparing this lake with Little Lake, Sheridan Lake, and Glacier Lake, three other Montana Power lakes in the immediate area. Big Lake has twice the storage capacity of any of these neighboring lakes. The name was bestowed by the Forest Service between 1908 and 1912. The dam was constructed on this lake in 1916-1917 and was widened in 1920. (Ralph Cronin)

Big Blue Creek

T17N R24W. The larger of two similarly named tributaries of Ninemile Creek. Both Big Blue Creek and
Little Blue Creek are so named because their waters appear blue in the spring. (Patrick McElligott)

Big Knife Creek

T16N R18W. Originates in Missoula Co. and flows n.w. to its confluence with the Jocko River in Lake Co. Received its name from Alexander Big Knife who lived in the canyon containing the bed of the creek. Big Knife settled in this location in 1891 during the government directed removal of the Salish tribe from the Bitterroot Valley. The government erected building which was this man's home is still standing. Big Knife's death in the late 1930's resulted from an accident with wild horses. (Joseph Big Sam)

Big Salmon Creek

T21N R15W. Headwaters in n.e. corner of Missoula Co. Flows in a n.e. direction into Powell Co. Salmon trout fishing is usually good in this creek, accounting for the name. It is the larger of two branches, the smaller being Little Salmon Creek in Powell Co. (John Stark)

Bill Creek

T13N R22W. Originating near Grave Creek Ridge and flowing into Petty Creek, W. W. (Bill) Schmitz homesteaded the area between the mouth of Mike's Creek and the mouth of the South Fork (Petty Creek). The creek that bears his name is located app. ½ mile n. of Mike's Creek. The name was generally accepted
around 1906. W. W. Schmitz was one member of the family which moved to the Petty Creek area from their previous homestead on Woodman Creek in the Lolo country to escape an outbreak of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. (W. W. Schmitz)

Bitterroot Range

T11-12N R19-20-21W. Extending along the Bitterroot River s. of Missoula. (See Bitterroot River)
Previous Indian Name: Chi-Quil-Quil-Kine. Salish word which means "Red Mountains." This name was descriptive of the red willows which grew profusely in the area. (Will Cave, "This Cave Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922.)

Bitterroot River

T12N R20W. Flows n. through s. c. Missoula Co. to its juncture with the Clark Fork River app. 3 miles e. s. e. of Missoula. "The Bitter Root, the official flower of the State of Montana, gave its name to a beautiful valley, a range of mountains and to a river in western Montana. . . . The roots of the plant were harvested by the Flathead or Salish Indians in spring and early summer and were used as a general food and as an appetite restorer in winter. Its botanical name is Lewisia Rediviva; the first part bears the name of Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition, who collected the scientific specimens in September of 1806, on his way from Lolo creek to Hell
Gate pass and took them east with him. Sometime later, in fact a year or so, the specimens showed life and the second part of the name was attached, which means tenacity to live." (Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960, Souvenir Program.)

The bitterroot "flower is a small plant that blooms in June and is common to many Montana valleys. It seems to thrive more especially in the Bitterroot Valley, and this circumstance has given to the valley its name." (Wheeler, Trail of Lewis and Clark, p. 76)

Previous Indian Names:

(1) The Salish Indians characterized the plant by the word spet-1m, meaning "the plant with the bitter tasting root." The original name of the Bitterroot River was the Salish spet-1m seulku, meaning "the water of the bitterroot."

(Wheeler, Trail of Lewis and Clark, p. 76; Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960.)

(2) "In the tribal lore of the Flatheads the Bitterroot River was called In-schu-te-schu, meaning 'red willow.' Phonetic misrepresentation and limited interpretation have changed In-schu-te-schu to Eoot-lach-Schute. The red willow grew in such abundance along the river that the Kutenai, the neighbors and allies of the Flatheads, nicknamed these Indians Mukwohenik in the Indian language, meaning 'Red Willow people.'" (Partoll, Montana Magazine of History, p. 45.)
Lewis and Clark on September 5, 1805, acquired the corrupted form of the Flathead name for the river. Speaking of the "Red Willow people," the journal records, "They call themselves Eoote-lach-Schute Oat la shoot." (Thwaites, *Original Journals of Lewis and Clark*, vol. 3, p. 54.)

**Blackfoot River**

T13N R18W. Enters Missoula Co. in the e., proceeds in a general s.w. course, and joins the Clark Fork River at Bonner, app. 5 miles e. of Missoula. Named for the Indian tribe. For further information on the Blackfoot Indians; (See Council Grove and Hellgate Canyon). The original English name recorded in 1865 was Big Blackfoot Fork. The "Fork" was dropped in favor of Big Blackfoot River, a name accepted as late as 1878, but in the early 1880's the "Big" was deleted, leaving the present name.

(DeLacy, *Map of the Territory of Montana; Asher and Adams, Idaho and Montana, western portion*)

Previous Indian Name: Cokalihishkit. The Salish Indian word signifying "the river of the road to the buffalo." (Daniel Scott)

**Blanchard Creek**

T14N R14W. Tributary on lower end of Clearwater River. Refers to a Hiram S. Blanchard who came to Montana in 1895 and developed a ranch on the headwaters of Blanchard Creek. The ranch is
presently owned by Albert Troutline. (W. K. Samsel)

Blanchard Flat

T15N R14W. Area n.e. of the mouth of Blanchard Creek. (See Blanchard Creek)

Blanchard Lake

T15N R14W. On e. border of Blanchard Flat. (See Blanchard Creek)

Blue Mountain

T12N R21W. In the Grave Creek Range s.w. of Missoula. Named by United States Forest Supervisor Elers Koch about 1908 for the blue appearance of the heavily timbered mountain under proper atmospheric conditions. (W. K. Samsel)

Boles Creek

T16N R15W. Flows into Placid Creek ½ mile from its drainage into Placid Lake. The surname of Jim Boles, the original owner of the Sunset Ranch, a short distance s. of the headwaters of the creek. (Jack Whittaker)

Boles Point

T16N R16W. A peak n. of Boles Creek headwaters. (See Boles Creek)

Bonita

T11N R16W. In s.e. extreme of Missoula Co. on the banks of the Clark Fork River. Bonita was formerly a town with upwards of 3000 population,
but is presently only a p.o. The word *bonita* is Spanish for "pretty" or "beautiful." Its origin is attributed to Mexican section hands working on that part of the N.P.R.R. lines in 1864. The designation was not used locally until N.P. officials put up the sign. (W. K. Samsel)

Previous Name: Cramer Station. Bonita took the place of Cramer Station at the mouth of Cramer Creek which was run by Charles Cramer. (See Cramer Creek)

**Bonita Ranger Station**

T11N R16W. App. 2 miles w. of Bonita. (See Bonita)

**Bonner**

T13N R18W. 7 miles e. of Missoula via U. S. Highway 10 through the Hellgate Canyon. Commemorating E. L. Bonner, an early settler in Missoula Co. and the first president of the Missoula and Bitterroot Valley R.R. in 1888. Bonner, a lumber magnate of the Northwest, was the original owner of the present site of Bonner. Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, was also named after this man. (J. P. Rowe, Albert Partoll)

**Bonner Mountain**

T13N R17W. ¼ miles e. of Bonner. (See Bonner)

**Boulder Lake**

T15N R18W. Forms the headwaters of Gold Creek.
An aptly descriptive name, as a huge boulder formation, on which there is a lookout tower, directly overlooks the lake. This tower is on the edge of a precipice whose height is estimated at 200 feet. (Arthur L. Wisherd, Forrest H. Poe)

**Boulder Point**

T15N R18W. The promontory described in the origin of Boulder Lake. (See Boulder Lake)

**Boyd's Hill**

T15N R14W. On the Missoula-Powell Co. border 2 miles n. of the Blackfoot River. William (Bill) Boyd had a ranch in the vicinity of this natural landmark. Boyd sold the ranch to the Montana Fish and Game Commission shortly after 1910. (Jack Whittaker)

**Bunyan Creek** (See Herrick Run)

**Bunyan Lake**

T19N R17W. 1 mile w. of the lower end of Lindbergh Lake. Named by "Cap" Eli Laird (See Angel's Bathing Pool) in 1929 or 1930. Laird must have meant it as a humorous appellation. Bunyan is connotative of gigantic size (with reference to Minnesota's legendary Paul Bunyan), but the lake is hardly more than what is locally termed a "pothole." (Lester Perro, John Stark)

**Burdette Creek**

T13N R23W. Headwaters along Fish Creek Divide
with waters flowing w. into Mineral Co. Earl Burdette and his brother had a cabin and small placer diggings on the lower end of this creek, which is in Clearwater Co., Idaho. The two men mined on this stream and on Fish Creek prior to 1900. The name gained acceptance between 1900 and 1923. (Gilbert Wendover, Charles Bacon)

Burnt Fork Creek

T17N R24W. One of numerous Ninemile Creek tributaries. There is a burnt area on the left hand fork of the stream from a forest fire in the latter part of the nineteenth century. (Patrick McElligott)

Burnt Point Creek

T16N R20W. One of the upper branches which forms Mill Creek. In an area adjacent to the creek there are no trees because of a large rock slide. The slides result from a predominance of slate. (Edmond Hamel)

Butler Creek

T16N R23W. Flowing s.w. into Ninemile Creek a short distance upstream from the abandoned settlement, Stark. Named after Jack Butler, one of the many prospectors who came to the Ninemile Creek country during the gold mining period in the first decades of the twentieth century. (Patrick McElligott)
Cahoot Gulch

T12N R19W. On Miller Creek roughly 5 miles s. of Missoula. John Van Doren and Andrew Berg went "in cahoots" to split rails for the N. P. R. R., using timber from this gulch. The word "cahoots" signifies partnership and is a popular slang expression of early Western days. (Dan Maloney)

Camas Creek

T13N R16W (See Union Creek)

T13N R16W. Rising in the s.e. and flowing into Union Creek at Potomac. This is the Chinook Indian name for a small onion which grows wild in Montana. (Refer to Glossary) Adopted by the U.S. Geographic Board.

Camas is a plant with blue flowers. There was such an abundance of camas plants in the flat meadows surrounding Camas Creek that the entire area was a brilliant blue when the flowers blossomed in the spring. (Henry F. Hayes, Jack Whittaker, Russel F. Winters)

Camas Prairie (See Potomac)

Camp Creek

T12N R22W. Drains into Lolo Creek app. 11 miles from its mouth. Was apparently so named because above the road there are picnic grounds with a delta suitable for a good campsite. (Mrs. Edna Tucker)
TL7N R24W. Small stream joining Ninemile Creek. There is a favorable place to camp on the bank of the creek near its mouth. (Patrick McElligott)

TL8N R15W. Flows s.w. and into the Clearwater River near Lake Inez. Two versions exist for the origin:

(1) Named after S. A. Camp, an early day trapper in this area. (W. K. Samsel)

(2) This was a stop-over for the early settlers (in the period 1900-1920) when it required four to six days to make the trip from Missoula to the present vicinity of Condon. The name was a natural result. Campers on the bank of this creek could use the two or three log cabins which had been deserted by a former owner. (John Stark)

Carlton

TL1N R20W. Located app. 15 miles s. of Missoula on U. S. Highway 93. Named previous to 1885 for Mrs. Robert Carleton, an early resident of this former small town. Carlton once had a p.o., church, and cemetery. There are presently several ranches in the area. The "e" was apparently dropped in the naming of the town, creek, and lake. (M. A. McClain; Mrs. Nancy McClain; Rand, McNally & Co., Map of Montana.)

Carlton Creek
T11N R20W. Flows into the Bitterroot River from the w. at the former site of Carlton. (See Carlton)

Carlton Lake
T11N R21W. On the headwaters of Carlton Creek 7 miles w. of Carlton. (See Carlton)

Carter Lake
T15N R18W. Lake #8 in Montana’s Power’s system of storage lakes above Rattlesnake Dam. (See Sheridan Lake) The origin of the name is unknown. Timber was cleared around the lake in 1922 in preparation for the dam construction in 1923. (Ralph Cronin)

Cataract Creek
T20N R15W One of three major branches forming the headwaters of Big Salmon Creek in n.e. Missoula Co. The origin is obvious, as there are a series of cataracts on this high mountain stream. (John Stark)

Catching Creek (See Kitchen Creek)

Cayuse Hill
T15N R22W. 1 mile s.s.e. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. The word cayuse is of Indian origin, but no information is available on the origin of this place name. A cayuse is an Indian pony. The word was taken from the name of a Waialatpuan tribe, the Cayuses, who live near the junction of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. (See Glossary) (Stuart, Forty Years on the Frontier, vol. I., p. 126.)

Cedar Creek
T15N R23W. Flows into Ninemile Creek. Cedars, which are generally very sparse in this country, are numerous along the banks of this particular stream. (Patrick McElligott)

T12N R22W. Tributary of Lolo Creek app. 2 miles downstream from Lolo Ranger Station. The lower end of the creek is almost entirely cedar, the only significant amount of cedar in the area, hence the name. (Ted Williams)

Cedar Run Creek

T11N R21W. Tributary of Lolo Creek. An unusual name as there are no cedars in the vicinity and game trails are faint. The strange origin of this creek name was given to U. S. Forest Ranger Edward L. Shults of Lolo district by an old-time resident revisiting the country after several years absence. According to Ranger Shults:

"In 1913 this old fellow had worked with a crew engaged in building a road grade along Lolo Creek. They camped at the mouth of a small side drainage. It was hard work, the hours were long and sometimes, at the end of a hot day, they were too tired to eat. One Sunday afternoon, one of the crew rode to the Lolo Hot Springs and brought back a couple of quarts of whiskey. Regularly, from then on, each had a big "shot" before supper and each in turn rode to the Hot Springs. Finally, the job was com-
pleted and, as they were about to leave, the last bottle was passed for the last time. Instead of chucking it in the creek as the others had done, this old fellow lowered it from his lips and placed it on a stump, declaring its brand to be henceforth the name of the small creek: "Cedar Run." (Edward L. Shults)

The bottle is gone, but there is a sign in its place and, but for chance of choice it might now read "Cobb's" or "Sunnybrook." (Ross Middlemist)

Charley Anderson Snag

T19N R17W. Protruding from the waters of Lindbergh Lake. Named by "Cap" Eli Laird for an old-timer in the vicinity. This is the only named snag in Missoula Co. The snag is inverted with the butt end of the tree above water. Its position has not changed appreciably since 1887. (John Stark)

Charley Thomas Gulch

T12N R16W. N. branch of Cramer Creek drainage in extreme s.e. Missoula Co. Charley Thomas was a half-breed, a Cherokee with Negro blood, who came to this country from Missouri around 1900. Before his arrival in Montana, Thomas had served eight years in prison for killing a man in St. Louis who ran off with his wife. He came to this area to get a new start. Thomas was a "tie hack" (hand-hewing ties for the N.P.R.R.) and a trapper. (A. B. Cook)
Chickaman Gulch

T12N R21W. Enters the Lolo Creek drainage app. 5 miles from the mouth of the creek. Named after the miner who homesteaded the Chickaman mine in the upper reaches of the gulch. (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Ross Middlemist)

Chief Joseph Gulch

T12N R23W. Enters Lolo Creek ½ mile above Lolo Ranger Station. Referring to a large band of Nez Perce Indians under the leadership of Chief Joseph who passed down Lolo Creek in a supposed war party in the summer of 1877. However, later evidence showed that "the party under Chief Joseph was not at war, for included were the wives and children, hundreds of horses, and a vast collection of household gear. Their pace was leisurely, and as they moved eastward their conduct reflected their intentions of peaceful passage, rather than that of fugitives or marauders." (Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960)

For additional historical background: (See Fort Fizzle)

Previous Name: Joe Gulch. The Christian name of some early day trapper or prospector who evidently was well known in his time, but whose history has been forgotten. This name persisted until the late 1920's when some member of the Forest Supervisor's staff became confused as to the origin of the name and con-
nected "Joe" with Chief Joseph. Thereafter, Forest Service maps were published showing the creek as Chief Joseph Gulch. (Darrel D. Weaver)

Cinderella Mountain
Tl4N R23W. 1 mile s.e. of Lothrop. The name originated previous to 1903, but the reason for fanciful "Cinderella" is unknown. The mountain was probably named on a whim by some former resident of Lothrop. (Mrs. Anne Runyon)

Clark Creek
Tl2N R22W. Minor tributary of Lolo Creek about 3 miles below Lolo Ranger Station. Deloss W. Clarke, the informant's grandfather, homesteaded the creek in the 1890's. The final "e" was omitted in the naming of the creek. (Floyd Harrison)

Clark Fork River
Tl4N R23W. Enters Missoula Co. in the s.e. corner and flows in a winding but generally w.n.w. course, bisecting the city of Missoula and flowing into Mineral Co. beyond the community of Lothrop. By decision of the Geographic Board, this river is the Clark Fork from its source to the Columbia, of which it is a tributary. Its name honors Captain William Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805-1806. (U. S. Geographic Board Decisions)

Previous Names: Includes a profusion of former designations: Arrowstone, Bitterroot, Clarke, Clark's,
Clark's Fork, Deerlodge, Flathead, Hellgate (Hell Gate), Kalispell, Missoula, Pen d'Oreille, Silberbow, St. Ignatius, and Valley Plain.

(1) The first name bestowed upon that portion of the river above its intersection with the Bitterroot River is recorded in the journals of Meriwether Lewis: (September 10, 1805) "I sent out all the hunters, and directed two of them to proceed down the Bitterroot River as far as its junction with the Eastern fork which heads near the Missouri, and return this evening. this fork of the river we determined to name the Valley plain river." (Thwaites, *Original Journals of Lewis and Clark*, vol. III, p. 60.)

(2) It was known variously as the Pen d'Oreille, Kalispell, Flathead, and the Missoula River in early days. That part of the river above Missoula in Hellgate Canyon was later called the Hellgate River. The headwaters above Hellgate Canyon were referred to as the Deerlodge River. In 1833 W. A. Ferris, an early explorer, named it the Arrowstone River. (Elers Koch, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, March, 1948.)

(3) DeSmet, on October 29, 1841, called that part of the river immediately above the present site of Missoula the St. Ignatius River. "Six miles further n. we crossed the beautiful river of St.
Ignatius." (Life, Letters, and Travels of DeSmet, p. 343; Letters and Sketches, p. 181.) DeSmet referred to that part of the river below Missoula's townsite as the Clark's or Flat Head River. (Ibid., p. 345; p. 183)

(4) An early use of the designation "Missoula" was in the 1864 journals of Major John Owens. Owens called the Clark Fork above its junction with the Flathead the Missoula River. (Phillips and Dunbar, Journals and Letters of Owen, p. 64.)

(5) By 1865 the present Clark Fork River was called the Bitter Root River below Hellgate and Hellgate River above this settlement. By 1873 map makers were calling this the Missoula River below the old townsite of Hellgate, but a map of 1876 proves that some people still called the lower end of the river the Bitter Root or the Bitter-root.

(DeLacy, Map of the Territory of Montana; Mitchell, Territory of Montana; U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Territory of Montana.)

(6) As an example of the confusion resulting from these co-existent names: In the early 1900's it was noted that "according to the signs in Missoula County, the river that runs through town Missoula is the Missoula River. According to the map, it's the Clark Fork of the Columbia River." (Propes, The Fascinating Missoula, Mon-
Clearwater Junction

T14N R14W. Junction of State Highway 20 with the Seeley Lake-Condor Co. highway. (See Clearwater River)

Clearwater Lake

T15N R15W. High mountain lake partially encircled by Swan's Ridge (Divide) in n.w. Missoula Co. Major lake on the headwaters of the Clearwater River. (See Clearwater River)

Clearwater Lakes (See Alma Lake)

Clearwater River

T14N R14W. Originating in the Clearwater and Summit Lakes, running in a s.s.e. course, and emptying into the Blackfoot River 3 1/2 miles from the Powell Co. border. So named by an unidentified prospector because of the natural clearness of the water in this stream. There is considerable contrast between the clean waters of the Clearwater and the normally muddy waters of the Blackfoot, the river into which it flows. (W. K. Samson, Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

Clinton

T12N R17W. Small community 15 miles e. of Missoula on the N.P.R.R. and C.M. & St.P. Named in November, 1889, after Henry Clinton. It is undecided whether Clinton was a railroad man or a lumberman. (Mrs. Nettle, Albert Partoll)
Previous Names: Better's Station, Pine Grove, Blossberg.

(1) Originally Better's Station on the Mullan Road, a stage station which received its name from Austin Betters, who homesteaded the townsite. Betters, the father of the informant, came to this country in 1881. The stage station was established in 1883. (Mrs. Nettle)

(2) The N.P.R.R. originally called this settlement Wallace in the 1880's, but the name was not accepted by the p.o. (Lukens)

(3) The descriptive name, Pine Grove, superceded the locally accepted Better's Station for a short time, probably two or three years. (Mrs. Nettle)

(4) Blossberg was adopted in 1888 or 1889, but was soon abandoned when it was discovered that the p.o. was being confused with another town of the same name in the vicinity of Butte. (Mrs. Nettle)

Cloudburst Creek
T12N R23W. A s. tributary of Lolo Creek app. 1 mile above Lolo Ranger Station. The general opinion is that the man who named this creek was caught in a cloudburst while camping on its banks. (Ross Middlemist)

Colt Creek
T18N R16W. Rising in the n.w. and flowing into the Clearwater River a short distance n. of Lake Alva.
The original intention was to name this stream after Mr. Cott, an N.P. lumberman on Karl Woodward's reconnaissance of 1907, but the word was corrupted through written transcription to Colt Creek. (W. K. Samsel)

Cooney Creek
T21N R16W. "Cooney" is a distortion of the original name, "coney" or "cony," which was given because of the presence of numerous coney rabbits in the rugged cliffs at the head of this stream. (See Glossary) The coneys (or "pika" as they are also called by residents of the Condon area) are present in nearly every small gulch or canyon in the n. section of Missoula Co. (Fred Kaser)

Cooney Peak
T20N R16W. App. 2 miles s. of the nearest point along the course of Cooney Creek. (See Cooney Creek)

Cottonwood Creek
T16N R14W. App. 5 miles of this s.e. flowing creek is in Missoula Co. The headwaters and lower end of the stream are in Powell Co. Derives its name from the forest cover in the area, which is predominantly cottonwood. (See Glossary) (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Cottonwood Gulch
T15N R20W. A n.w. extension of the Mill Creek bed. Named because of the abundance of cottonwood trees in the gulch. (See Glossary) (Edmond Hamel)

Cottonwood Lakes
Small string of lakes located along Cottonwood Creek. (See Cottonwood Creek)

Council Grove

About 6 miles w. of the entrance to Hell Gate Canyon. A stand of timber (no longer existent) which has been known by this name since the earliest white settlement. This name is probably a translation of a Salish equivalent. Council Grove was the "hub" of Indian trails in the Hellgate and the scene of numerous Indian conferences long before the advent of the white man.

This grove was the scene of the signing of the Flathead Indian treaty by Chief Victor, head chief of the Flathead nation, on July 16, 1855. The treaty was not a peace treaty between the white settlers and the Indians, as there never had been hostilities. The treaty, rather, called for the cessation of intertribal warfare between the Flathead and Blackfeet tribes. The Blackfeet agreed to the terms of this treaty on October 17, 1855. In the terms of the treaty, the Flathead Indian nation relinquished their ownership of all the lands in western Montana with the exception of the created Flathead Indian Reservation, originally covering a considerable portion of the country between what is now Missoula and Flathead Lake. (Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960.)
Course de Femmes (See Finley Creek)

Cramer Creek

T12N R16W. Rising in the n.w. and entering the Clark Fork River near Bonita. Martin Cramer, the great-uncle of the informant, came to this country from Iowa in 1878 or 1879. He intended to mine for gold in Bear Gulch, but a mining accident broke both of Cramer's legs and killed his partner. Thereafter, he operated a stage station (See Bonita), raising potatoes and hay for the Bear Gulch Mining Company. (A. B. Cook)

Previous Name: Beaver Dam Creek. As a result of its proximity to Beaver Dam Butte. (See Beavertail Hill) As mentioned in Mullan's Journals: "We were detained two days to cut a graded road over the butte at Beaver Dam Creek to avoid two impractical crossings of the stream." (Mullan's Military Road, July, 1860, p. 51.)

Cramer Gulch

T12N R16W. Branch of Cramer Creek. (See Cramer Creek) Also locally called McMullan Gulch after Andy McMullan who logged and had a saw mill at the mouth of the gulch. (A. B. Cook)

Cramer Station (See Bonita)

Crazy Fish Lake

T16N R18W. Headwater lake of the South Fork (Jocko River). When Forest Service brush crews first made a
trail to this remote lake, they discovered that the fishing was excellent. This lake had not been visited previously except by roving tribes of Blackfeet and Flatheads. It was reported that the fishing was so good that the "crazy" fish would even bite at a cloth fastened to the fishing hook in place of regular bait. (Forrest H. Poe)

Crazy Horse Creek

T19N R18W. Originating high in the Mission Range and flowing s.e. into Glacier Creek. The name relates to an incident in 1932. "Cap" Laird and John Stark (the informant) were chasing two horses which they had recently purchased from the Flathead Indians. These two "crazy horses" attempted to return to the Jocko (Flathead) Reservation, but started up the Glacier Lake Trail instead of the Jocko Trail. The horses wandered up the canyon containing what is now Crazy Horse Creek. They jumped a cliff approximately twelve feet high into what is now Loco Lake. The two horses swam across this small lake, eluding their pursuers, although one of the horses was later caught. "Cap" Laird, in utter exasperation at the unpredictable antics of these horses, bestowed the names of Crazy Horse and Loco respectively upon the creek and lake. (John Stark)

Crescent Lake

T19N R18W. Headwater lake of Glacier Creek high in
the rugged Mission Range. The shape (contour) of the lake roughly resembles a crescent if viewed from neighboring higher elevations. (Robert Van Gieson, John Stark)

Crystal Creek
T12N R18W. Flowing n.e. to its juncture with the Clark Fork River near the abandoned site of Turah. As with most descriptive names, the exact origin cannot be traced, but we may assume that the name was once bestowed because of the crystal clear waters of this stream. (Forest Swartz)

Crystal Lake
T18N R17W. Major headwater lake of Swan River drainage. The name is descriptive of the crystal clearness of the lake waters. (Peter Rovero, Robert Van Gieson, R. W. Wilhelm)

Daughter-of-the-Sun Mountain
T18N R18W. High in the Mission Range near the Missoula-Lake Co. border. Probably a translation from the original Indian word which was chosen because this mountain, with its extremely high elevation, is one of the first and last places to receive the sun's rays at sunrise and sunset. (Robert Van Gieson)

Davis Creek
T11N R19W. Rising in the e. and flowing into the Bitterroot River s.e. of Lolo. A Davis family lived a short distance from the mouth of Lolo Creek in the
1890's. One of the Davis brothers, whose Christian name is believed to have been Seth, homesteaded on the creek which bears his surname. (Mrs. Edna Tucker) T12N R22W. Stream flowing into Lolo Creek from the s. about 2 miles below Lolo Ranger Station. Harry L. Davis (the informant's deceased husband) built two cabins at the mouth of the creek around 1924. Davis was an N.P. engineer who retired because of failing health and settled on Davis Creek. (Mrs. Maud Davis)

Previous Name: Joe's Gulch. Referring to an old prospector who had a small placer mine 2 or 3 miles upstream from the Forest Service bridge. (Mrs. Maud Davis)

Davis Point

T11N R19W. Drainage from this mountain forms the uppermost headwaters of Davis Creek. (See Davis Creek--T11N R19W)

Deadman Gulch

T12N R20W. W. branch of the Bitterroot River 3 miles n. of Lolo. Two versions exist in popular belief.

(1) Named by an N.P. railroad crew because a "Russian John" was supposed to have drowned in the Bitterroot River at the mouth of the gulch. The house formerly owned by George Bennett stands app. on the location of "Russian John's" grave, i.e. where he was drowned. Other unidentified people
reportedly have lost their lives in or near Deadman Gulch, lending additional significance to this name. Among these drowning victims were a couple of prospectors who lost their lives up the gulch shortly after its naming. (Ed Hayes)

(2) Another version relates the naming of Deadman Gulch to a man (or men) who lost their lives in that area as a result of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. (Albert Partoll)

Previous Name: Henry Nipp Gulch. Henry Nipp had a cabin a short distance up the gulch. He made his livelihood by cutting rails for the N.P.R.R. (Ed Hayes)

Deep Creek

T13N R21W. Flows in a n.e. direction and drains into the Clark Fork River about 9½ miles w.n.w. of Missoula. The name is derived from the steepness and height of its banks rather than from the depth of its waters. There is an abrupt cut in a small, narrow canyon on the lower end of the creek. This cut is as "deep" as 200' in various places along the banks of the creek. (Clauin D. Johnson)

Deerlodge River (See Clark Fork River)

DeSmet

T14N R20W. 5½ miles n.w. of Missoula. Named previous to 1885 in remembrance of Father Pierre-Jean de Smet who was the first white man to settle perma-
nently in Montana. This missionary, teacher, explorer, and agriculturist established a mission at Stevensville (Ravalli Co.) in 1841. (J. P. Rowe, Towne, Her Majesty Montana)

Devil's Creek

T17N R25W. Flows s.e. and joins with the waters of Eustaché Creek to form Ninemile Creek. Named by an early prospector, Morris Cook, because the creek runs through steep, rough, "devilish" country. (Patrick McElligott)

Devil's Gate (See Hellgate Canyon)

Diamond Point

T13N R21W. ½ mile w. of upper end of Deep Creek. There is a deep depression on the w. side of the mountain, dropping abruptly from the peak. The conical shape of the accentuated mountain peak resembles a diamond, hence the name. (Clauan D. Johnson)

Dick Creek

T11N R22W. The w. branch of the South Fork (Lolo Creek). Received its name from Richard (Dick) Wilkinson who established a ranch app. 1 mile from the mouth of the South Fork previous to 1891. (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Frank Doolittle)

Dirty Ike Creek

T12N R17W. Tributary of the Bitterroot River about 1½ miles w.n.w. of Clinton. There was an old man living near this creek, remembered only as "Dirty
Ike," who was noted for his general uncleanliness.
(Mrs. Lee Eliot)
Previous Name: Smith Creek. After a man named Smith
who married Alice Amereau. The change to Dirty Ike's
Creek occurred between 1914 and 1929. (Mrs. Nettle)

Doctor Creek
T19N R15W. Connecting Doctor Lake with that part of
Lick Creek which is in Powell Co. (See Doctor Lake)

Doctor Lake
T19N R15W. High mountain lake around 1\frac{1}{2} miles below
the crest of Swan's Ridge and \frac{3}{4} mile w. of the Mis-
soula-Powell Co. border. A question remains as to
which of two doctors the name honors:
(1) Named after Dr. Horace Koessler who came to this
country in 1924. Koessler was born in Austria,
practiced medicine for several years in Chicago,
and finally moved to the West, buying the former
Gordon ranch near Holland Lake. Koessler died at
an early age in 1927. (Mrs. Horace Koessler, Dr.
Warren E. Thieme)

(2) Named for a Dr. Gordon. (See Gordon Creek)
Previous Name: Lower Doctor's Lake. If the first ver-
sion may be assumed correct, Dr. Koessler named this
lake after himself upon his arrival in 1924. The
present name was a revision following his death.

Donlan
T15N R21W. Former p.o. 1\frac{1}{2} miles n.n.w. of French-
town. Honoring Ed Donlan, a past lumberman and state senator. (J. P. Rowe)

Donovan Creek

T12N R17W. Small branch of the Bitterroot River 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles n.w. of Clinton. A colorful, rugged individual named Patrick Donovan lived near this creek in the 1880's. The following incident (as related by the informant) attempts a brief character analysis of Donovan: "Pat got shot once in the chest. Mrs. Thomas Greenough saw him and exclaimed, 'You're shot, Pat!' He said, 'I know I'm shot. I can see the hole in my chest.' Donovan survived this shooting incident." (Mrs. Nettle)

Drew Creek

T16N R15W. Joining Morrel Creek from the w. and located in Morrel Flats s. of Seeley Lake. "Spike" Drew, a lumberjack, settled in this area previous to 1913. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Dry Gulch

T13N R21W -- T16N R23W. The first: drains into the Clark Fork River 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) mile downstream from the mouth of Deep Creek. The second: a n. branch of Ninemile Creek. These gulches are so named because the stream bed is dry with the exception of spring and early summer months. "Original settlers possibly accustomed to more 'gradual' but steadily flowing streams were surprised to see a dry bed where water had previously run
off quickly..." (Stewart, *Names on the Land*, p. 132.)

East Fork (Graves Creek)

T12N  R22W.  Joins with Graves Creek 1 mile above its junction with Lolo Creek. (See Graves Creek)

East Fork (Petty Creek)

T13N  R22W.  Unites with the South Fork (Petty Creek) to form Petty Creek. (See Petty Creek)

East Fork (Finley Creek)

T15N  R20W.  Main source of Finley Creek. (See Finley Creek)

East Lake

T18N  R18W.  Headwater lake of Swan River in the Mission Range. So named because the lake is immediately e. of the Mission Range Divide. East Lake is not accepted by local usage.

Popular Name: Lost Lake. The lake is completely hidden to the hiker. It may be seen from only one high vantage point in the region, that being Sunset Lookout. (John Stark)

East Twin Creek

T13N  R17W.  Flows into the Blackfoot River app. 9 miles from its mouth. (See West Twin Creek)

Edith Creek

T15N  R21W.  Branches into Ramon Creek which, in turn, empties into the Clark Fork River e. of Frenchtown. "Mac" McGregor, a United States Forest Ranger of the Ninemile district, named the creek after his
Edith Peak
T16N R21W. 6 miles n. of Frenchtown. (See Edith Creek)

Ed's Creek
T13N R23W. Tributary of Petty Creek flowing from the w. whose headwaters originate near the Mineral Co. line. Named in 1897 or 1898 after Edward Schmitz, an uncle of the informant. (W. W. Schmitz) For further information on the Schmitz family: (See Smith Creek--T12N R22W)

Elbow Lake
T15N R14W. Slightly over 3 miles n.n.w. of Clearwater Junction. There is a wide curve (or "elbow") in the shoreline of the lake which, in an aerial view, resembles a man's bended arm. (Peter Rovero)
T19N R17W. (See Lindbergh Lake)

Elbow Point
T19N R17W. Near the w. shore of Lindbergh Lake. Name borrowed from a previous name of Lindbergh Lake. (See Lindbergh Lake)

Ellis Creek
T15N R22W. Stream entering Ninemile Creek about 1¾ miles above its mouth. Ellis Lane, for whom the creek was named, married one of the Houle girls. (See Houle Creek) He lived in a cabin at the creek for a short time and trapped there in the winter of 1906.
(Patrick McElligott)

Emma Gulch

T13N R21W. Upper tributary of Deep Creek. In recognition of Emma Gilman who homesteaded the Gilman ranch in this gulch. (Claun D. Johnson)

Eustache Creek

T17N R25W. Located in n.w. corner of Missoula Co. One of the two major sources of the headwaters of Ninemile Creek. Named for Eustache Barrette, one of two brothers from near Frenchtown who discovered gold in the Ninemile region. (Patrick McElligott) For gold discovery details: (See St. Louis Creek)

Evaro

T15N R20W. An N.P.R.R. station on U. S. Highway 93. Named previous to 1885 after a French nobleman who traveled through the area. Details are lacking. (J. P. Rowe; Rand, McNally & Co., Map of Montana.)

Falls Creek

T21N R16W. Branch of Smith Creek 2 3/4 miles n.n.e. of Condon Ranger Station. There are several water falls on this creek, accounting for the name. The two largest falls are 200-300 feet in height. (Fred Kaser, Russel Conkling)

Farmer's Lakes

T14-15N R18W. Five small lakes on the headwaters of High Falls Creek, a tributary of upper Rattlesnake Creek. Named after J. C. Sain, Effinger, and Hamil-
ton, three settlers who originally took out water rights on this drainage system. (Forrest H. Poe)

Fern Creek
T16N R20W. Originating near a point held in common by Missoula, Lake, and Sanders Cos. Flows s.e. into upper Mill Creek. Named for an abundance of ferns along the bank of this creek. (Blanche Hamel)

Findell Creek
T18N R15W. Runs into the Clearwater River about 4 miles n.w. of Seeley Lake Ranger Station. In remembrance of United States Forest Ranger Elmer Findell of the Seeley Lake division. During Findell's residence in Missoula Co. he was also a lumberman and, at one time, was a manager of the Western Mill before its acquisition by Anaconda Copper Mining Company. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Finley Creek
T16N R16W. Rises in the s.w. and enters Placid Creek 2 miles n.w. of Placid Lake.

(1) Attributed to Jacques Finley, an early Northwest Fur Company trader, for whom the Jocko River is named. (See Jocko River) (W. K. Samsel)

(2) Named for Patrick Finley, an early trapper who married into the Salish tribe and settled near this creek. (Chester Abbott)

Previous Name: Course de Femmes. Tradition says that some early Hudson's Bay Company traders met a band of
Flathead Indians on this creek and held a footrace between the squaws for prizes, which were conferred by Francis Ermatinger, one of the traders. This name is on Captain Mullan's map of 1863. (W. K. Samsel; Stone, Following Old Trails, p. 32)

Salish Indian Name: Sin-tla-atz-nah. Describing the creek as "reaching up the valley to a timbered country with hills" (Chester Abbott)

Finntown (See Milltown)

Fire Creek

T16N R23W. Joins Ninemile Creek 9 miles from its mouth. The name dates back to a forest fire which blackened the area in the early 1900's. (Patrick McElligott)

Flat Creek

T17N R25W. Only the headwaters of the creek are in Missoula Co. Flowing down the w. side of Ninemile Divide. So named because the drainage is on a flat terrain with the exception of those headwaters within the co. (Patrick McElligott)

Florence Lake

T18N R15W. At the base of Swan's Range Divide and on the headwaters of Sawyer Creek. This is not a lake, but a pond which is fresh water fed from an underground spring. The name refers to Florence Hammond, daughter of A. B. Hammond, timber and lumber magnate of the Pacific Northwest. (Dr. Warren E.
Fort Fizzle

TL2N  R21W. Located near what is now the mouth of Westerman Creek. The "fort" in Fort Fizzle consisted of a log barrier erected across the Lolo trail.

"Here Captain Charles Rawn, 7th infantry, with four officers and five enlisted men from Fort Missoula, approximately one hundred and fifty citizen volunteers, and twenty-five Flathead braves erected and occupied a redoubt from July 25 to 28, 1877, to challenge the passage of the hostile non-treaty Nez Perce Indians under Chief Joseph. (See Chief Joseph Gulch) On July 28th, the Nez Perce evaded the troops by ascending a gulch on the north side of Lolo Creek, one-half mile above this place and going down what is now Sleeman Creek into the Bitterroot Valley. A forest fire on September 30, 1934, destroyed the last visible sector of the old log redoubt which is now marked by five cement piers." (Donald W. Nelson).

Fournie Creek

TL5N  R20W. W, branch of Mill Creek 2 miles n.e. of Frenchtown. Isaac Fournier, who lived on this creek in the early 1900's, had a truck garden and sold vegetables. The final "r" in this man's name was not pronounced and was dropped in the naming of the creek. (Edmond Hamel)
Franklin Ranger Station

T14N R18W. On the upper Rattlesnake Creek 10 miles n.w. of Missoula. Franklin, a geologist who hunted and trapped along the Rattlesnake drainage, had a hunting and fishing lodge at what was to become Franklin Ranger Station. He managed this lodge (in modern terminology, a "dude ranch") until around 1915. Franklin took the supervisor's examination and was United States Forest Supervisor for the Lolo Forest around 1906 or 1907. In recent years, the ranger station has been abandoned and destroyed by fire. (Elers Koch, Forrest H. Poe)

Fraser Creek

T14N R18W. Tributary of Rattlesnake Creek 6 miles n.n.e. of Missoula. John, George, and Green Fraser, three brothers, came from Missouri in the late 1880's and claimed squatter's rights on the creek which bears their name. Two of the brothers, John and George, settled in the area permanently. John Fraser filed water rights on the stream and made significant improvements on the land, such as setting out a small orchard. There are no known descendants of these brothers, as they were all unmarried. The Forest Service adopted the name in 1908-1909. (Forrest H. Poe)

Free Creek

T16N R23W. Emptying into Ninemile Creek from the
In Frenchtown Valley, on T14N R21W. Beginning in the rolling hills near...
the station of Primrose and continuing down the Clark Fork River to Huson. (See Frenchtown)
Previous Indian Name: Qua-elth. In translation this Salish name suggests a "state of tranquility." The valley was appropriately named. As Will Cave remarks, "Whether the consistency of the atmosphere has a tranquilizing effect upon everything down there, I do not know, but if there be a placid vale in our commonwealth, it is there." (Will Cave, "New Series in Nomenclature Begin in Edition of Today," Missoulian, May 14, 1922.)

Frenchy Creek
T19N R17W. Joins the waters of Kraft Creek 3 miles n.w. of Lindbergh Lake. The nickname of a man of French descent whose actual name has not been ascertained. "Frenchy" had a cabin on this creek. It was reported that he discovered a producing gold mine shortly before his mysterious disappearance in 1914. This "lost" mine has never been located. Two explanations account for this man's presumed death. One theory is that "Frenchy" committed suicide in one of his depressed moods. The more probable belief is that his death could be blamed on one last wild party from which he never returned, presumably perishing in the mountains. (Mrs. Hilda Johnson, John Stark)

Fulgurite Peak
T14N R17W. 2½ miles n.e. of the former site of Franklin Ranger Station. Name suggested by the num-
ber of fulgurites on top of the peak. By Webster's definition, a fulgurite is "a vitrified crust, often tubular, produced by the fusion of rock, sand, etc., by lightening."

Previous Names: (1) Goat Peak, (2) Mineral Peak, and (3) Lightening Peak. Suppositions may be drawn on the latter two names. Mineral Peak probably derived its name from the vitreous, tubular fulgurites scattered on the slopes of the peak which, to the casual observer, would resemble a mineral deposit. Lightening Peak was also probably suggested by the fulgurites. By the preceding definition, a fulgurite formation can be produced by lightening. It may be assumed that Lightening Peak was so named because it was particularly vulnerable in electrical storms. In support of this assumption, fulgurite is derived from the Latin fulgur, meaning "lightening."

Game Creek

T13N R16W. Enters Union Creek 4 miles above its junction with the Blackfoot River. Named for an excess of elk and other wild game in the area. (Arthur L. Wisherd)

Garden Creek

T13N R23W. Small drainage from the w. on the upper end of Petty Creek. Name originated from a garden planted by a member of the Schmitz family (See Smith Creek) in 1910. The purpose of the garden was to
help supply food for the base fire fighting camp established along the banks of this creek. At this time an extensive forest fire was raging through the Petty Creek area. (Leo Thomas Kinney, W. W. Schmitz)

Garnet

T13N R14W. Adjacent to Missoula-Granite Co. border in extreme s.e. Missoula Co. So named because of an abundance of garnet around this abandoned gold mining camp. (Gordon Erickson)

Garnet was established with the initial discovery of gold in the 1850's and is located in what was known as First Chance Gulch. Placer mining began in Garnet in the 1860's. In recent years, one of the few remaining old residents of this once booming camp remarked, "There used to be nine hundred men working here, and we had four saloons and everything that goes with a rough town." (Wolle, The Bonanza Trail, pp. 211-212.)

Garnet Range

T12N R15-16W. Separating the drainage systems of the Clark Fork River from the Blackfoot River. (See Garnet)

Gaspard (See Schilling)

Gilbert Creek

T11N R17W. A Rock Creek tributary rising in the w. The name is connected with an employee of the N.P. R.R., but opinions differ:
(1) Named for F. W. Gilbert, General Superintendent of the N.P.R.R. in the early 1880's. (J. P. Rowe)

(2) Named for Charles Gilbert, a cook for the railroad in 1883. (Mrs. Nettle)

Glacier Creek
T21N R17W. Connecting Glacier Lake with the Swan River near n. border of Missoula Co. (See Glacier Lake)

Glacier Lake
T19N R17W. In Mission Range wilderness area 4 miles w. of Lindbergh Lake. Glaciers are readily visible from a distance, hence the name. Glacier Lake and Glacier Creek are direct drainages from melting glaciers. The water in the lakes and creeks of this region are blue-green because of glacial deposits. (Mrs. Hilda Johnson, Peter Rovero)

T15N R19W. One of the Rattlesnake Lakes n. of Missoula. Received its name because glaciers in this high altitude will occasionally last through the summer. (Ralph Cronin)

Previous Name: Higgins Lake. Christopher P. Higgins, one of the co-founders of the original town of Hellgate, had the first water rights on this lake. He later sold to Missoula Light and Water Company who transferred the ownership to the W. A. Clark holdings. This, in turn, was transferred to the American Light and Power Company which formed Montana Power in
1922. Montana Power refers to the present Glacier Lake as #4. (Forrest H. Poe)

Glacier Peak

T19N R18W. On Missoula-Lake Co. border. (See Glacier Lake) There are three neighboring peaks on the Mission Range Divide sometimes referred to as the Panoramic Peaks, Glacier Peak being one of this group. (John Stark)

Glacier Sloughs

T19N R17W. 2 miles w.n.w. of n. end of Lindbergh Lake. Called "sloughs" by local residents because the adjacent Glacier Creek, during spring and early summer, overflows the banks of what was at one time a small lake. (See Glacier Creek) (John Stark)

Previous Indian Name: Notlimah Lake. Origin unknown.

Gold Creek

T21N R18W. Originating near the Mission Range Divide and flowing generally n.e. to its juncture with the Swan River. Mistakenly transcribed on the 1915 Missoula Co. map. Its original name is Cold Creek, so designated because the creek is fed by high mountain lakes, many of which are surrounded by melting glaciers. (Peter Rovero, Fred Kaser)

Gold Lake

T21N R18W. 8 miles w.n.w. of Condon Ranger Station. (See Gold Creek) The same mistake in transcription.

Granite Creek
T11N R21W. Flows from the s.w. and enters Lolo Creek ¼ mile above Lolo Hot Springs. Directly above the mouth of Granite Creek are a maze of huge granite boulders, accounting for its name. (Wheeler, *The Trail of Lewis and Clark, 1804-1904*, vol. II, p. 81; Hite, *Significance of the Lolo Trail*, p. 24.)

Grant Creek

T11N R19W. Rising in the n.n.e. and emptying into the Clark Fork River app. ¼ mile upstream from its juncture with the Bitterroot River. Named for Captain Richard Grant, a fur trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, who built a home near the mouth of the creek in the 1850's. (J. P. Rowe, Albert Partoll, Stuart, *Forty Years on the Frontier*, vol. I, p. 126.)

Captain Grant, the father of Mrs. C. P. Higgins, spent a winter in the Bitterroot Valley and moved the following spring to Hell's Gate Ronde. In the fall of that year, he filed a land claim and built a home on this creek four miles n. of what is now Missoula. Grant died at Walla Walla, Washington Territory, in the spring of 1862. (Anon., "Montana before 1860...", *Powell County Post*, December 10, 1920)

Grass Valley

T13-14N R20W. Bordered on the s. by the Clark Fork River and situated between the Missoula Valley on the s.e. and the Frenchtown Valley on the n.w. Derived its name by general acceptance because hill and
prairie were covered with a luxuriant growth of bunch grass.

Previous Indian Name: Chill-mae. This former Salish name referred to a tree in Council Grove (for historical background: See Council Grove). "There was a tree distinctly noticeable because of its having practically no limbs. The Indians in naming it Chill-mae designated it as 'the valley of the tree without branches.'"

Historical Note: "Grass Valley may be accorded the honor of being the point in our state at which the first child, purely white, opened his eyes to the light of the Montana sun."


Graves Creek

T12N R22W. Major branch from the n. meeting Lolo Creek about 2 miles downstream from Lolo Ranger Station. There are Indian graves on high banks overlooking the mouth of the creek. According to one vigorously disputed story, Chief Lolo, after whom Lolo Creek was supposedly named, is buried in one of these graves. This belief is partially substantiated by the designation of "Lou Lou's Grave" near the present Graves Creek on a map of 1882.

(Ross Middlemist; Mrs. Edna Tucker; Mrs. Louise Gilbert; Rand, McNally & Co., Indexed Atlas of the World.)
T12-13N R21-22W, Separating the drainages of Lolo Creek from the Clark Fork River. (See Graves Creek)

Gray Wolf Crags
T18N R18W. Near w. end of Glacier Lake, high in the Mission Range wilderness area. (See Gray Wolf Lake)
The humorous name, Gentle Annie, was proposed by "Cap" Laird (See Angel's Bathing Pool), the original settler in the area, but this appellation was not accepted by the Forest Service. (John Stark)

Gray Wolf Creek
T18N R17W. Extending from Gray Wolf Lake to Lindbergh Lake. This name is used and accepted locally, but the county and Forest Service maps mistakenly refer to this creek as the upper end of Swan River. (See Gray Wolf Lake) (John Stark)

Gray Wolf Lake
T18N R18W. At the base of the Swan's Range, forming the major source of the Swan River. The name, a translation from an unknown Indian origin, was adopted by the Forest Service; it is probably explained by the numerous wolverines and wolves in this area. The lake is on the Old Jocko (Indian) Trail. (Peter Rovero, John Stark)

Gus Creek
T13N R23W. Running e. from the Fish Creek Divide to its mouth at Petty Creek. Named for Gus Schmitz, an uncle of the informant. For information on the
Schmitz family: (See Smith Creek) (W. W. Schmitz)

Gyp Mountain

T21N R15W. In n.e. extremity of Missoula Co. 1 mile w. of the Powell Co. line. Probably named by some early trapper or settler in an exclamation of disgust. (See Glossary)

Hamilton Lake

T15N R18W. Headwater lake of High Falls Creek, a tributary of the Rattlesnake Creek drainage. This commonly accepted name does not appear on Forest Service or county maps. It refers to a pioneer in the area, William R. Hamilton, who arrived around 1908. The land immediately surrounding the lake is the property of I. E. Peterson, brother-in-law of the informant. (Lester Hamilton)

Previous Name: Hamilton dubbed the lake "Yellow Jacket" because upon his arrival he and his pack horses were besieged by a swarm of bees, commonly known as yellow jackets. (Lester Hamilton)

Heart Lake

T19N R18W. Headwater lake of Glacier Creek. A major tributary of the Swan River. The name is descriptive of the lake's heart-shaped contour which may be observed from a neighboring hill. (Robert Van Gieson)

Hellgate (See Missoula)

Hellgate Canyon
T13N R18W. A narrow, winding canyon immediately west of Missoula. "Hell Gate, the portal or entrance to the canyon received its strange name as a result of the continuous battles between the Flathead or Salish Indians of the region, and the invading Indians of the Blackfoot tribe, who had their home range many miles to the northeast. The Flatheads and their allies used the pass to go to the buffalo plains to the east and were repeatedly ambushed in the canyon by the Blackfeet. The condition made for much bloodshed and often caused the river through the canyon to be stained red from the blood of warriors and that of their injured horses. Momentos of these inter-tribal engagements dotted the canyon in the form of human skulls and bones, and the skeletons of horses."

(Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960.)

Previous Names: (1) Sin-poop-thlem, (2) Devil's Gate, (3) Im-i-su-le-tika, and (4) Porte de l'Enfer.

(1) The Flathead or Salish tribes originally called this river and canyon "sin-poop-thlem," a term conveying reference to a trail or stream coming out of a canyon. (Stout, History of Montana, vol. I.)

(2) DeSmet refers to "a beautiful defile, commonly called, by the mountaineers or Canadian hunters, the Devil's Gate, for what reason, however, I know not. These gentlemen have frequently on
their lips the words devil and hell; and it is perhaps on this account that we have heard so often these appellations." (Life, Letters, and Travels of DeSmet, vol. I, p. 343.)

(3) For an etymology of the later Flathead Indian name, Im-i-sul-e-tiku: (See Missoula)

(4) "The early French trappers and voyagers were frequently waylayed in this narrow canyon by hostile Indian tribes. It became the saying that it was safer to enter the gates of hell. The area became known as Porte de l'Enfer ("Door of Hell") which was later translated into the English "Hell's Gate." At first, the name applied only to the mouth of the canyon, but later to the entire canyon and what is now the Clark Fork River." (Stout, History of Montana, vol. I)

A seemingly more appropriate reason for the name is suggested by a Missoula resident of the early 1900's: "The origin of the name Hellgate is pretty well established, but the why of the name is a point of debate. Romantic people say it was called that because of the bloody Indian battles between those walls. The realist, when crossing the Higgins Avenue Bridge on a less-balmy January day, says that those winds must be out of the colder sections of hell."

(Propes, The Fascinating Missoula, Montana)

A humorous note on Hellgate was injected by
Father Mengarini: "If the road to the infernal regions were as uninviting as that of its earthly namesake, few I think would care to travel it."

("Mengarini's Narrative of the Rockies," Frontier and Midland, ed. Albert J. Partoll, p. 6.)

Hellgate River (See Clark Fork River)
Hellgate Ronde (See Missoula Valley)

Hemlock Creek

T20N  R17W.  W. tributary of Kraft Creek which, in turn, flows into Glacier Creek in the Swan River country. (See Hemlock Peak)

Hemlock Peak

T20N  R18W.  l½ miles n. of the upper end of Hemlock Creek which flows into Glacier Creek, a tributary of the Swan River. There are generally very few hemlocks in this country, but hemlocks predominate on the lower slopes of the peak. (Robert Van Gieson, John Stark, R. W. Wilhelm)

Henry Nipp Gulch (See Deadman Gulch)

Herrick Run

T19N  R17W.  Drains into Lindbergh Lake from the s.w. Refers to the trail used by Fred Herrick, a lumberman from Idaho, who used to lead tourists to Bunyan Lake over this route. Herrick at one time was a multi-millionaire worth forty-nine million dollars. He owned lumber mills in Alabama, Idaho, and Canada. When Herrick suffered bankruptcy, he forced many banks in the Northwest out of business.
Confusion in Forest Service records resulted in this name being applied to the creek rather than to the trail which has been nearly obliterated in past years. Local residents still call this Bunyan Creek. (See Bunyan Lake) (John Stark)

Higgin's Lake (See Glacier Lake)

High Falls Creek
T14N R18W. On upper Rattlesnake Creek 1 1/2 miles n. of the abandoned site of Franklin Ranger Station. There are 7 falls along the drainage of this creek ranging in height from 18 to 35 feet. These falls, which are nearly hidden by dense foliage, look like one large waterfall in the spring during the rapid run-off season. (Forrest H. Poe)

High Park Lake
T18N R18W. One of the major sources of the Swan River. The name is descriptive of the lake's position above the timber line deep in the Mission Range. (See PARK in Glossary) The lake is set in a basin surrounded by a few scraggly alpine firs, bare rock, and scattered areas of continual snow. (John Stark, Peter Rovero)

Holland Creek
T20N R16W. Connects Holland Lake with the Swan River, joining the river 3 miles n.e. of Lindbergh Lake. Named for Ben Holland who owned what is now the Koeslker ranch. Holland sold it to Dr. Gordon
around 1913, and the ranch became Dr. Horace Koesl-lller's after Gordon's demise in 1924. (See Koesl1ler Lake) (Dr. Warren E. Thieme, R. W. Wilhelm)

Holland Lake

T20N R16W. About 5½ miles e.n.e. of Lindbergh Lake. (See Holland Creek)

Hollensteiner Gulch

T12N R21W. App. 4 miles from the mouth of Lolo Creek. Mr. and Mrs. August Hollensteiner, the parents of the informant, came here from Iowa in 1881 and settled in this gulch. Both of them came to the United States from Germany when they were 7 or 8 years old. (Mrs. Edna Tucker)

Holloman Creek

T11N R18W. Upper branch forming Miller Creek. For William W. Holloman who homesteaded the mouth of the creek in 1906 or 1907. Holloman worked for the Forest Service in the Miller Creek district for a number of years. (Mrs. Inez Holloman, Elers Koch)

Horse-head Peak

T16N R24W. Mountain on the divide s. of upper Nine-mile Creek. Named by United States Forest Ranger H. P. Barringer for a flat rock shaped in outline like a horse's head which he set up in a cairn on the peak. (Elers Koch)

Houle Creek

T15N R21W. Flows into the Clark Fork River from the
n., near Huson. Named after Joseph Houle, one of Montana's earliest pioneers, who came to Ft. Benton in 1861 and settled near Huson on the creek bearing his name in the winter of 1865. Houle took homestead and pre-emption claims, settling here after having no luck in the Virginia City gold fields. Houle was born in St. Gregoire, district of Three Rivers, in the province of Quebec on March 27, 1836. He married Eliza Brown, a native of California and a daughter of Louis Brown, a Montana pioneer, on November 27, 1865. (Miller, An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, p. 298)

Howard Creek

T12N R23W. Stream from the w., draining into Lolo Creek at Lolo Ranger Station. General 0. O. Howard made a military trail along Lolo Creek in 1876-1877, the period of the Nez Perce War. Howard camped here with several companies of soldiers in 1877 enroute to the Big Hole. (A. C. Austin; Wheeler, Trail of Lewis and Clark, vol. II, p. 81.)

Huson


Inez Creek

T18N R15W. Flows s. into Lake Inez. (See Lake Inez)
Iris

T11N R17W. Railroad siding app. 3 miles w. of Bonita Ranger Station named by an employee of the N.P. R.R., but the origin is unknown. (A. B. Cook)

Iris Point

T11N R17W. 43/4 miles w.s.w. of Bonita Ranger Station. (See Iris)

Island Lake

T19N R18W. Headwater lake of Glacier Creek in the Mission Range. A fairly large island in the middle of the lake accounts for the name. (Robert Van Gie-son, John Stark)

Jacque's Fork (See Jocko River)

Jocko River

T17N R17W. Originates in Upper and Lower Jocko Lakes and flows w. into Lake Co. For Jacques ("Jocko") Raphael Finley, a trader and trapper for the Northwest Fur Company and the Hudson's Bay Company, who was an associate of the explorer, David Thompson. Finley, a half-breed, used his influence and powers of diplomacy successfully in preventing what otherwise might have been a bloody conflict between two Indian factions camped by the banks of this river. In remembrance of Finley's role as mediator, the river was given his name. Alexander Ross refers to the stream as Jacque's Fork in his journals of 1824. By 1865 the formal "Jacque's" had been changed to the
more informal nickname "Jocko." Jacques Finley died at Spokane House, May 20, 1828. (Elers Koch, Chester Abbott)

Previous Name: Prune River. So called by members of the Hudson's Bay Company and Northwest Fur Company because of extensive thickets of wild plums which they thought were prunes.

(Chester Abbott; Will Cave, "This Cave Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922.)

Joe Gulch (See Chief Joseph Gulch)

John Creek

T11N  R21W. S. branch of Lolo Creek 5 miles from its mouth. John Hokenson, a cousin of the informant, came from Minnesota around 1900 and took out squatter's rights along the creek which bears his Christian name. Hokenson cut timber along the Lolo for N.P.R.R. ties. (Frank Doolittle)

John's Creek

T13N  R23W. A w. fork app. 9 miles from the mouth of Petty Creek. With reference to John Black, a bachelor who worked for a short time during the late 1800's in a sawmill on the former Circle S Ranch on the mouth of Ed's Creek. The creek was named in the period 1897-1898. (W. W. Schmitz)

Johnson Gulch

T13N  R18W. A n. branch of the Blackfoot River 2 miles n.e. of Milltown. A man by this name of Swedish descent had a cabin and barn in the gulch. He
settled there previous to 1895. (Jack Whittaker)

Josephine Creek
T17N R23W. Tributary of Ninemile Creek from the n.w. Named in 1906 with the advent of the Josephine Copper Mining Company. (John F. Hossack, Patrick McElligott)

Previous Name: Petty Creek. This name was changed to avoid the confusion resulting from another creek of the same name in Missoula Co. (See Petty Creek) (John F. Hossack, Patrick McElligott)

Kamas Peak
T12N R16W. In the Garnet Range 4½ miles n.n.e. of Bonita Ranger Station. A variation of the Indian word camas. (See CAMAS in Glossary) (See Camas Creek)

Kendall Creek
T12N R17W. A n. tributary of the Clark Fork River about 3 miles n.w. of Clinton. Kendall (whose Christian name is not remembered) was an early day logger who owned a sawmill along the banks of this creek. Kendall began logging operations around 1896 and continued for two years before moving to another region. (Forest Swartz)

Kennedy Creek
T16N R23W. Joins Ninemile Creek 6 miles n.w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. Transferred from the Kennedy Gold Mining Company that mined along this creek in 1908 and 1909. This mining company also had a
large dredge in operation. (Patrick McElligott)

Kitchen Creek

T11N R17W. Flows from Granite Co. to its juncture with the lower end of Rock Creek about 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles s.w. of Bonita Ranger Station. The present name is explained by an adjacent rock formation resembling an oven. (Lukens)

Previous Name: Catching Creek. According to hearsay, the stream was named for Joe Catching, a lumberman of the 1880's who mysteriously disappeared while traversing the area on horseback. His brother was Tobe Catching. The name has been corrupted to produce the present "Kitchen," this change being facilitated by the convenient explanation of the rock formation. (Bruce Elliot)

Koessler Lake

T19N R15W. Headwater lake of Gordon Creek in Powell Co. Named after Dr. Horace Koessler, a native of Austria, who practiced medicine in Chicago before coming to Missoula Co. in 1924. Koessler bought the Gordon ranch near Holland Lake, living there until his death in 1927. (Mrs. Horace Koessler)

Kraft Creek

T19N R17W. Major tributary of the Swan River having its source in the s.w. The name of an early trapper, but details are lacking. (John Stark)

Lace Lake
T19N R18W. 5 miles w. of Lindbergh Lake. Natural walls which rise directly out of the waters of this lake attain a height of 400 feet. The cliffs are marked with numerous vertical and horizontal fissures. These fissures, when reflected in the lake, resemble a lace pattern, hence the name. (Robert Van Gieson, John Stark)

Lace Peak

T19N R18W. On s. end of Lace Lake. (See Lace Lake)

Lagoon Lake

T19N R18W. Slightly over 5 miles w. of the lower end of Lindbergh Lake. This small, placid lake which is independent of other drainages fits the description of a lagoon. The rock bed surrounding the lake could be associated with the coral reefs surrounding a lagoon. (John Stark)

Lake Creek

T15N R18W. One of numerous small lakes forming the Rattlesnake Creek headwaters n. of Missoula. The creek receives its name naturally since it provides a drainage outlet for five lakes in the Montana Power Rattlesnake Dam project which supplies Missoula residents with electricity and water. The five lakes at the headwaters of Lake Creek are Worden, Carter, McKinley, Roosevelt, Sheridan, and Big Lakes. (Forrest H. Poe)

Lake Dinah
T17N R17W. On the headwaters of Marshall Creek 9\(\frac{3}{4}\) miles e.n.e. of Seeley Lake. United States Forest Ranger Elmer Findell named this lake and a neighboring lake after Elsina and Dinah Jackway, daughters of early settlers in the area. The Jackways settled on Cottonwood Creek w. of Boyd's Hill. The lakes were named around 1913. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Lake Elsina

T17N R17W. On the headwaters of Deer Creek which flows into the n. end of Seeley Lake. (See Lake Dinah)

Lake Inez

T18N R15W. App. 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles n.w. of Seeley Lake. (See Alva Lake)

Latimer Gulch

T12N R20W. App. 3 miles above the mouth of Lolo Creek. Named after a family of Ltimers who homesteaded in the gulch around the turn of the twentieth century. (Ross Middlemist)

LaValle Creek

T14N R20W. Flowing from the mountain range in the n. through Grass Valley and into the Clark Fork River near DeSmet. Also La Valle Creek. Named for a French blacksmith, Louis Lavallie, who settled on the w. bank of this creek. According to Will Cave, "Near Lavallie creek, at the foot of the hill, beside the old road leading over O'Keefe creek, was the house
built, I think, by Louis Lavallie, during the 1870's."
Since 1922 the name of the creek has been corrupted
to its present two word form with the deleted "i"—
La Valle.

(J. P. Rowe; Chester Abbott; Will Cave, "This Cave
Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922)

Previous Indian Name: Na-se-latkhn. The Salish word
signifies "two creeks running near together," the
other creek being Butler Creek. (Will Cave, "Cave
Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922)

Lee Creek
T11N R23W. Joining the West Fork of Lolo Creek 1
mile above Lolo Hot Springs. Originally designated
as Lost Lee Creek around 1904, but the "Lost" has
been deleted in recent years. Named for Lee Thompson
who, in the company of her mother, Sally Thompson,
(See Sally Creek) was lost overnight in the area com-
prising the headwaters of Lee Creek and Sally Creek.
Lee Thompson, a niece of Thomas Greenough, is a Mon-
tana State University graduate presently living in
California. (Mrs. Herman Gerber)

Leeper Gulch
T12N R17W. A s.w. branch of the Clark Fork River
near Clinton. Leeper, whose first name has not been
ascertained, came from Butte probably shortly after
1900 and built a cabin on the Clark Fork River near
the mouth of the gulch which bears his surname. (Mrs.
Nettle)
Previous Name: Springsteln Gulch. This original appellation which is still commonly used originated with Samuel Springsteln who arrived with his brother in 1900. The brothers cut railroad ties for the N.P.R.R. in the gulch which, thereafter, bore their surname. (Forest Swartz)

Lick Creek
T19N R15W. Flowing e. into Gordon Creek in Powell Co. Refers to the numerous saline deposits in the region which constitute natural deer and elk licks. (Peter Rovero, R. W. Wilhelm)

Lick Lake
T19N R15W. Headwaters of Lick Creek 2 miles e. of Powell Co. border. (See Lick Creek)

Lime Kiln Creek
T14N R18W. Confluence with Rattlesnake Creek app. 3 miles w.s.w. of abandoned Franklin Ranger Station. A lime kiln was in operation about 2 miles from the valley bottom before the turn of the twentieth century. The limestone was brought down and burned at the side of the creek. The kiln was not a paying proposition and was soon abandoned. (Forrest H. Poe)

Lindbergh Lake
T19N R17W. On e. fringe of Mission Range wilderness area in n. Missoula Co. The famous aviator, Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, camped several days on this lake in the summer of 1927. Lindbergh retreated
to the Laird resort on the n. end of this lake to relax and escape the public enthusiasm created by his successful round-trip flight across the Atlantic. (John Stark, Elers Koch, Peter Rovero)

Previous Name: Elbow Lake. So called before Lindbergh's visit in 1927. There are two bends (elbows) in the shoreline which are evident in an aerial view. (John Stark)

Previous Indian Name: Chi-chi-lan. Meaning "elbow." (John Stark)

Lindy Peak

T19N R18W. ¼ miles w. of s. end of Lindbergh Lake. This peak, which provides a view of 21 surrounding lakes, was named after Charles A. Lindbergh. (See Lindbergh Lake) When the plane carrying Lindbergh was approaching for a landing, it came directly over this mountain peak, so the peak was named that year (1927) by "Cap" Eli Laird, the owner of Lindbergh Lake Lodge. (Mrs. John Stark, Lester Perro)

Little Lake

T15N R18W. Lake #2 in Montana Power's system of storage lakes above Rattlesnake Dam. (See Sheridan Lake) The lake is "little" only with reference to Big Lake, a short distance to the s., this contrast apparently accounting for the name. The lake was named by the Forest Service in the period 1908-1912. Dam construction by Montana Power was in 1912.
Little Blue Creek  
T17N R24W. Branching into upper Ninemile Creek from the n.e. Smaller creek running parallel to Big Blue Creek. (See Big Blue Creek)

Little Blue Point  
T17N R23W. On e. banks of Little Blue Creek. (See Little Blue Creek)

Little Edith Peak  
T15N R21W. App. 4 miles n. of Frenchtown. (See Edith Peak)

Little Marion Creek  
T16N R23W. Joins Marion Creek about 1 mile n.e. of its juncture with Ninemile Creek. (See Marion Creek)

Little Richmond Peak  
T18N R15W. 9 miles n. of Seeley Lake. (See Richmond Peak)

Loco Lake  
T19N R16W. Situated directly below Mission Range Divide and drains into Crazy Horse Creek, a tributary of Glacier Creek. For the story providing the origin of this place name: (See Crazy Horse Creek) (See LOCO in Glossary)

Lolo  
T12N R20W. Small town near the confluence of Lolo Creek and the Bitterroot River. (See Lolo Creek)

Lolo Creek  
T12N R20W. Originates on the n. side of Lolo Pass
in extreme s.w. Missoula Co., flows in a n.e. and e. course to its juncture with the Bitterroot River at the town of Lolo. Several probable theories explain the origin of Lolo, but the Lawrence theory seems most conclusive.

(1) The word is said to be an Indian rendition of Lawrence, the name of an old French trapper who lived on what is now Graves Creek, the major n. tributary of Lolo Creek. It is reported that the grave of this man is located on a pass of the Grave Creek Range a short distance up from the source of Graves Creek. Lawrence's name was changed to Lou-Lou because the Flathead Indians could not sound the "r" and replaced it with an "l." The present form, Lolo, is a shortened version of Lou-Lou or Lou Lou. The feint imprint of "Lou Lou" was evidenced on the p.o. in Lolo during the 1890's. Wheeler, in supporting his theory, quotes from Judge Frank H. Woody: "Father D'Aste and Father Palladino, who are among the oldest of the Jesuit fathers now living, are both of this opinion. They say that they have known of more than one instance in which men by the name of Lawrence have been called Lolo or Lou-Lou by the red men."

(Palladino, Indian and White in the Northwest, p. 131; Wheeler, The Trail of Lewis and Clark, vol. II, p. 78; Mrs. Edna Tucker)
Other theories include:

(2) It is probably a corruption of the French name Le Louis given to the stream and pass by the early French trappers in honor of Meriwether Lewis. (Elers Koch, "Lewis and Clark Retraced across the Bitterroots," Oregon Historical Quarterly, p. 161)

(3) In the early 1850's, it was known as Lou Lou or Lolo, which is said to mean in the Nez Perce language "muddy water." (American Guide, p. 301)

(4) LoLo Charley was a guide in one of Major Owen's expeditions in 1855. (Phillips and Dunbar, The Journals and Letters of Major John Owen, p. 96.)

(5) A well known Indian of the region was named Jean Baptiste LoLo or Leola. (British Columbia Historical Quarterly, April, 1939)

Previous Name: Traveler's Rest Creek. The original English name was bestowed by the Lewis and Clark expedition. In Lewis's journal entry on September 9, 1805: "As our guide informed me that we should leave the Bitterroot river at this place and the weather appeared settled and fair I determined to halt the next day to rest our horses and take some celestial observations. we called this Creek 'Travellers rest.'"

(Thwaites, Original Journals of Lewis and Clark, vol. III, p. 58; Koch, Lewis and Clark Retraced across the Bitterroots, p. 163.)

According to map transcriptions, the creek was known as Lou-Lou Fork from the earliest white settle-
ment in the 1860's to the early 1880's, at which time the hyphen was dropped. A further revision to Lo-Lo Fork occurred in 1885. The final change to Lolo Creek probably took place previous to 1890.


The creek was referred to as Lolo Fork in 1905. (*Life, Letters, and Travels of DeSmet*, vol. I, p. 343.)

Previous Indian Name: *Tum-sum-lech*. This was the Flathead or Salish word for "Salmonless" or "No Salmon." In all of the creeks and rivers across the range in the Clearwater River and its branches, there was an abundance of salmon. None were found, however, in the Lolo drainage, hence its Indian name. There is a Flathead legend explaining the lack of salmon in the Lolo and neighboring waters. "The Indians of this section, like all others, had a legendary explanation of the origin of the natural phenomena that they saw around them. In all of the Flathead tales, the Coyote is the hero, like Brer Rabbit in the Negro tales of the South. The Coyote is the hero of the story concerning the absence of salmon in the stream, *Tum-sum-lech.*" (The legendary story is told in Appendix A.) (*Wheeler, The Trail of Lewis and Clark*, vol. II, pp. 78-79-80.)

Lolo Hot Springs
T11N R23W. About 6 miles s.w. of Lolo Ranger Station and 1 mile downstream from the formation of Lolo Creek proper. (See Lolo Creek)

Previous Name: Boyles Springs. The name was first suggested by Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition on September 13, 1805. "I tasted this water and found it hot and not bad tasted. The last blank space in MS in further examination I found this water nearly boiling hot at the places it Spouted from the rocks... I put my finger in the water, at first could not bare it in a second." (Thwaites, Original Journals of Lewis and Clark, vol. III, p. 64.)

Lolo Pass

T10N R24W. On the divide which forms the Montana-Idaho border app. 6½ miles s.s.w. of Lolo Hot Springs. (See Lolo Creek)

Lolo Peak

T11N R21W. A prominent point in a mountain ridge which separates the valleys of Lolo Creek and the Bitterroot River. (See Lolo Creek)

Lolo Ranger Station

T12N R23W. App. 18 miles w. of the town of Lolo. Used in this study as a geographical point of reference. (See Lolo Creek)

Loon Lake

T20N R17W. App. 3½ miles n. of Lindbergh Lake in n. Missoula Co. Loons present on the lake are occasion-
ally heard by residents of the area at night. (Mrs. Hilda Johnson)

Lost Lake (See East Lake)

Lost Park Creek

T11N R23W. Flowing n. from its source near the Idaho border in the s.w. corner of Missoula Co. and emptying into the East Fork (Lolo Creek). Named by some trapper, probably Peter Thompson who trapped extensively in this area in the first decade of the twentieth century. Previous to the advent of commercial lumbering practices, the heavily wooded canyon along the lower end of this stream "isolated" the beautiful meadows near its headwaters. These green meadows which were "lost" behind the dense forest growth resembled a park, hence the name. (Gilbert Wendover, Mrs. Herman Gerber, Mrs. Louise Gilbert)

Lothrop

T14N R23W. Located where Petty Creek flows from the s. into the Clark Fork River in the extreme w. portion of Missoula Co. This station and former small town was named for L. R. Lothrop, the engineer who supervised construction of the N.P.R.R. through this area. (J. P. Rowe)

Lower Doctor's Lake (See Doctor Lake)

Lower Jecko Lake

T17N R17W. On Jocko River 10 miles w. of Seeley Lake. Describing its relative position on the Jocko
River with respect to Upper Jocko Lake. (See Jocko River)

Previous Indian Name: Chil-soo-soo-was. A translation could not be obtained. The name probably refers to a great slide from the mountain to the n., which in some ancient period filled the canyon below and formed the present lake. (Will Cave, "This Cave Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922.)

Lusk

T15N R21W. N.P.R.R. siding 1 mile e. of Huson.
Named after Frank S. Lusk, president of the First National Bank in Missoula during 1910-1919, who owned land in that territory. Lusk also was responsible for the establishment of Lusk, Wyoming. (W. W. Schmitz, J. P. Rowe)

McCann Gulch

T12N R16W. A n. branch of Cramer Creek in s.e. Missoula Co. J. A. McCann logged there and had a lumber mill at the mouth of the gulch around 1900. (A. B. Cook)

McClain

T11N R20W. N.P.R.R. siding on the w. banks of the Bitterroot River 4 miles s. of Lolo. The right of way was acquired from T. A. McClain and J. P. McClain. T. A. McClain had a 100 acre apple orchard and the facilities for making vinegar and cider. This siding was constructed for shipping out these apples.
McClain Creek
T11N R20W. Joins the Bitterroot River from the w. app. 4 miles s. of Lolo. Named for T. A. McClain who came to the Bitterroot Valley in 1879 from California and settled near the creek. (See McClain) (M. A. McClain, Mrs. Nancy McClain)

McCormick Creek
T16N R23W. Runs s.w. to its junction with Ninemile Creek 7 miles n.w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. Commemorating a man by that name who was believed to have taken up the first stone and timber claims along the creek. (Patrick McElligott)

McKinley Lake
T15N R18W. Lake #6 in Montana Power's system of storage lakes above Rattlesnake Dam. (See Sheridan Lake) Named in honor of William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States, who served from 1897 to 1901. The name originated with the Forest Service in the period 1908-1912. Timber was cleared in 1922, and the dam for this lake was constructed in 1923. (Ralph Cronin)

McLeod Peak
T15N R18W. Prominent peak on the divide separating the Rattlesnake Creek drainage from the former Flathead Indian Reservation. Honoring Angus McLeod, a trader for the Hudson's Bay Company who was at Fort
Colville in 1855 and lived for several years afterwards at Fort Connah. The geographic board discarded conjectured names for the peak, including Arlès, Jocko, McCleud, and McLeoud. In 1921, the present name was fixed. (Woody, *Montana Historical Society Contributions*, vol. I, p. 306)

McNamara

T13N R16W. At the confluence of Union Creek and the Blackfoot River in s.e. Missoula Co. Named after Mike McNamara who owned a saloon and two or three buildings in the early 1900's. This former "community" has been abandoned for several years. (Jack Whittaker)

McQuarrie

T12N R17W. 2 miles n.w. of Clinton. An N.P.R.R. siding named for Daniel McQuarrie, brother-in-law of the informant, who was a resident in the town of Bearmouth as early as 1893 and a farmer near Clinton by 1898. (Mrs. Nettle)

Madison Gulch

T14N R22W. An e. branching ravine which opens to the Petty Creek drainage 2 1/2 miles s.s.e. of Lothrop. Named after an elderly, retired man who built a cabin in the gulch previous to 1902. (Mrs. Anne Runyon)

Mailbox Gulch

T12N R22W. A n. inlet to the Lolo Creek bed. Roads from the Williams, Thompson, and McGee ranches meet
in this gulch. At the crossroads, the mailboxes for the three ranches are posted on a tree. (Ross Middlemist)

Marion Creek

T17N R23W. Enters Ninemile Creek from the n.e.
Honoring Joseph E. Marion, one of Montana's prominent pioneers who entered Montana Territory in 1865. Marion was born of French descent in Quebec, Canada, on June 1, 1842. He came to the Frenchtown area in May of 1869, previous to the discovery of gold on Nine-mile Creek. He was an early gold rush resident of Cedar Creek, being the first mining claim recorder and storekeeper in the area. Marion, one of the early educated men in Missoula Co., became sheriff in 1872 and served as the county law officer for three years. Later, he served as the Missoula Co. representative in the state legislature. (Miller, An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, pp. 280-281.)

Marshall Creek

T18N R16W. Joins with the West Fork (Clearwater River) app. 1 mile w. of Lake Inez. Named after a Mr. Marshall who came from the East around 1900 with William Babcock. (See Babcock Lake) Marshall trapped and homesteaded on Morrell Creek near Deaf Jim Prairie. (W. K. Samsel)

Marshall Lake
T18N  R16W. On the course of Marshall Creek slightly more than 3 miles w. of Lake Inez. (See Marshall Creek)

Marshall Point

T17N  R16W. 2½ miles s.w. of Marshall Lake. (See Marshall Creek)

Martin Creek

T12N  R23W. Enters Lolo Creek from the s.e. app. 2 miles below Lolo Hot Springs. James Martin with his wife and daughter settled near the mouth of this creek in 1905. Martin's ancestors were wealthy people in San Francisco. The family abandoned their homestead around 1909, but the cabin remains. (Mrs. Louise Gilbert, Mrs. Herman Gerber)

Martin Gulch

T13N  R21W. Enters the Clark Fork River basin about 4 miles s.w. of DeSmet. The father of Louis and Daniel Martin was the original owner of what is presently the home of Dirk Sol. The gulch which bears the father's name is nearly 1 mile n.w. of the original homestead. (Dirk Sol)

Martina

T17N  R24W. Abandoned gold camp on Ninemile Creek 16 miles n.w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. The name was taken from the San Martina Gold Mining and Reduction Company which belonged to the H. L. Frank estate in Butte. The original gold camp, Old Town, was vacated
and moved to this site when Patrick McElligott (the informant's father) and his partner struck gold e. of Mattie V. Creek. (Patrick McElligott)

Martina Creek
T17N R24W. Empties into Ninemile Creek a short distance downstream from the abandoned site of Martina. (See Martina)

Matt Mountain
T18N R15W. On Missoula-Powell Co. border app. 5½ miles e. of Alva Lake. Named after Matthew Dunham who was packing on the United States Geographic Board survey at the time this area was mapped. (W. K. Samsel)

Mattie V. Creek
T17N R24W. Tributary of Ninemile Creek less than ½ mile downstream from Martina Creek. (See above) Named in remembrance of the informant's mother, Mrs. Mattie McElligott. The "V." stands for Vickers, her maiden name. The former Miss Vickers came to this country around 1890. Her husband, Patrick McElligott, was prospecting for quartz along this creek in the 1890's. (Patrick McElligott)

Meadow Creek
T11N R21W. Small e. branch of the South Fork (Lolo Creek). The timber stand that once existed along the banks of this creek has been "logged out," but a swampy meadow remains, lending its name to the creek.
Meadow Lake

T15N R17W. Headwater lake of the South Fork (Jocko River) surrounded by the high mountain ridge separating the drainages of the Clearwater and Jocko rivers. A descriptive name. The lake, which is little more than a large pond, is surrounded by a large, swampy meadow. (Arthur L. Withered)

Mellady (See Schilling)

Middle Creek

T11N R21W. Flows into the upper South Fork (Lolo Creek) from the e. Situated in the "middle" at app. equal distances from Lantern Creek on the n. and Falls Creek on the s. (Gilbert Wendover)

Middle Fork (Jocko River)

T17N R17W. Flows s.w. from its origin near the Swan's Range divide, merging with the North Fork and South Fork in Lake Co. to form the lower end of the Jocko River. The name designates its geographical location in the Jocko River drainage. (See Jocko River)

Middle Fork (Schwartz Creek)

T11N R18W. W. tributary of Schwartz Creek. Describing its geographical location with respect to the two adjacent tributaries. (See Schwartz Creek)

Mike Creek

T13N R22W. Diminutive stream running into upper
Petty Creek from the e. Named after Mike Anderson, a close friend of the Schmitz family. (See Smith Creek) (W. W. Schmitz)

Mill Creek
T11N R21W. Flows n. from its source at the base of Lolo Peak and enters Lolo Creek app. 6½ miles from its mouth. Named for a sawmill 1 or 2 miles up this creek in the early 1900's. Mistakenly transcribed as Hill Creek on the 1946 Missoula Co. map. (Mrs. Edna Tucker)

T16N R20W. Tributary from the n. joining the Clark Fork River near Frenchtown. The banks of this creek were the site of the first grist mill in Montana. The mill was built in 1862, when Montana was still a territory, by Moses Reeves, one of the early Montana pioneers who was born in Canada on September 12, 1832. Reeves ground wheat for the settlers for seventeen years at this location. The name was first recorded on a map in 1877.

(Miller, An Illustrated History of the State of Montana, p. 719; U. S. War Dept., Map Illustrating the Route of General Sherman.)

Miller Creek
T12N R20W. A stream whose source is in the Sapphire Mountains s.e. of Missoula and whose mouth is on the Bitterroot River app. 3 miles n. of Lolo. With reference to Ezra Miller who, by coincidence, was a miller by trade. Upon his arrival in this country in
1866-1867, Miller became a bartender in Missoula. Later, he left the tavern business and homesteaded on the lower end of the creek which bears his name after the land had been surveyed in the 1870's. Miller operated a mill for Worden and Company, Missoula's first establishment. After his death in 1907, the Miller homestead was sold to A. B. Drummond and is presently owned by Dan Maloney.

(Dan Maloney; J. P. Rowe; Hutchens, "Journeys into Our Back Yards," Missoulian, June 5, 1927.)

Miller Peak

T12N R18W. N. of the sources of Miller Creek and about 8 miles s.e. of Missoula. (See Miller Creek)

Milltown

T13N R18W. App. 7 miles e. of Missoula via U. S. Highway 10. Referring to the mill erected within the townsite around 1886 by A. B. Hammond. In 1898 Hammond sold the mill to Marcus Daly. (Jack Whittaker)

Previous Names: Riverside and Finntown.

(1) The townsite, established in 1893, was originally called Riverside because of its proximity to the Clark Fork and Blackfoot rivers. This name had to be changed to avoid confusion in the postal service because there was another Riverside somewhere near Butte. (Jack Whittaker)

(2) The name was changed to Finntown probably in 1893-1894 in recognition of the predominant nationality, but a later influx of population did
not deem the designation appropriate. It may be presumed that the present Milltown was recognized by this name shortly before 1900. (Jack Whittaker)

Missoula

TL3N R19W. Co., seat of Missoula Co. There are numerous versions of the etymology of the word "Missoula," but the generally accepted one is that which was originally proposed by Father Palladino, later supported by David Thompson, and in recent years substantiated by Albert Partoll.

This Indian name was originally attributed to the present Hellgate Canyon. For historical background: (See Hellgate Canyon). "The place acquired a sinister reputation and a feeling of dread could be experienced on entrance into the canyon. To the Flathead Indians it meant a 'place of fear or dread by the water' and also the place of 'chilly surprise or ill omen by the water.' Their Indian name for the place later was to become the word 'Missoula,' which is derived from Im-i-sul-e-tiku, a phrase descriptive of its significance. The Missionary Lawrence B. Palladino, S. J., well versed in the Flathead language, in his writings makes that analysis. His study is borne out by David Thompson, the Northwest Fur Co. explorer who visited the region as early as 1810 and noted on his map the word NEMISSOOLATAKOO for the
region and the river. The phonetic word 'Missoula' becomes apparent when the lettering is divided to show the prefix and suffix separately—NE-MISSOOLA-TAKOO. The Indian word for water was 'takoo' and was variously written in phonetic translation.


Palladino's etymology of the Flathead word Im-i-sul-e-tiku proceeds as follows: The word is composed of several parts. The initial "Im" is a preposition, standing for "in, at, near, by." The "i" is a prefix, meaning "very, truly, altogether," and thus emphasizing the significance of the root word to which it is prefixed. The root word is "sul," meaning "cold, chilly." The "tiku" means "water." This probably refers to a chilling experience rather than being a direct reference to the temperature of the water. (Palladino, Indian and White in the Northwest, pp. 357-358.)

Other theories include:

1) The Salish name for river was In-mae-soo-la, not Mizzoula. Before the days of mining along its upper reaches, the waters of the river were transparent and sparkling, particularly substantiating the native appellation. Among the Salish, there is an ancient legend relating to the christening of the "Sparkling River," the English translation.
of *In-mae-soo-la*. (Chester Abbott)

(2-3) Angus MacDonald, a son of the old trader at Fort Connah, believes that Mrs. C. P. Higgins, daughter of Captain Richard Grant, made the contraction of a Salish sentence meaning "where the waters flow from different directions" to form the word "Missoula." On the other hand, his half-brother, Duncan MacDonald, asserts that Missoula came from a Salish expression *In-may-soo-leet-que*, meaning "quaking river." (Stuart, *Forty Years on the Frontier*, vol. I, p. 126.)

(4) The name is said to have the same meaning as Missouri, "muddy water." (Gannett, *The Origins of Certain Place Names in the United States*, p. 210.)

Previous Names: Hell Gate, Wordensville, and Missoula Mills.

(1) The histories of Hell Gate (Hellgate) and Missoula are intricately linked, but the original town was located about 4 miles w. of the present townsit on the Old Mullan Road. The town was established and named "in the autumn of 1860 when Higgins with a business partner, Frank L. Worden, came to the Missoula-Hell Gate valley and opened a store." Concerning the orthography of the word, "The name of Hell Gate is found variously spelled, both as two words and as one word, and in some documents the reference may be to Hell's Gate." (See Hell-
(2) Hell Gate was once referred to as Wordensville in recognition of one of the town's founders, Frank L. Worden. The name appeared only for a short time in geographic nomenclature. "When, in January, 1864, the newly established legislature of Idaho Territory reorganized Missoula County and changed its boundaries, the act declared 'the county seat of said county of Missoula is hereby located at Wordensville.' The name was soon dropped, however, at the insistence of Worden himself....and the new territorial map bore the name of Hell Gate as the county seat." (Partoll, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, p. 193.)

(3) Missoula Mills was the original name of the present Missoula townsite. So named because the town was built around the flour and saw mills erected by Worden and Company in the winter of 1864-1865. (See Missoula) Francis L. Worden suggested calling it Missoula Mills in 1865, both in memory of the Indian name for the location and of the company's saw and grist mills. The saw mill was situated at the north end of the present day Higgins Avenue bridge. The "Mills" was dropped by common consent before 1870.

Missoula County

The name was adopted by territorial legislation in Washington in 1860, five years previous to the founding of the town by the same name. For historical background on Missoula Co: (See History of Missoula County) For the etymology of Missoula: (See Missoula)

Missoula Mills (See Missoula)

Missoula River (See Clark Fork River)

Missoula Valley

T13N R19-20W. Extending w. from the mouth of Hellgate Canyon to the Grass Valley hills. (See Missoula)

Previous Names: Soough-tip-kine and Hell Gate Ronde.

(1) The Salish word Soough-tip-kine cannot be given a concise interpretation. Prior to white settlement this valley was covered with an abundance of bunch grass. No trees were present with the exception of "a somewhat triangular mass of brush and timber, the irregular base of which extended from the junction of the Hell Gate and Missoula Rivers, a distance of something like one and one quarter miles, the apex to which triangle is a point along the Hell Gate River, about one half mile west of the present 1922 city limits."
The Indians referred to this triangle patch of woods as the basin "where the dense timber runs to a point," inferring that there was no timber
elsewhere in the valley. A more exact interpretation of Soough-tip-kine would probably be "where timber runs out."


(2) When the early French voyagers and trappers called what is presently Hellgate Canyon the Porte de l'Enfer, they referred to the Missoula Valley as La Ronde de la Porte de l'Enfer which was partially interpreted as Hell Gate Ronde.

(See Hellgate Canyon)


Mitouer Creek

T13N R18W. Runs into the Clark Fork River near U. S. Highway 10 app. 3 miles e. of Missoula. Around 1900, Abe Mitouer operated a portable saw mill in that gulch. (Jack Whittaker)

Mitten Mountain

T12N R19W. Nearly ¼ miles s. s.e. of Missoula. Derived from a mitten-shaped burn on the side of the mountain. This identifying feature is no longer readily visible. (Elers Koch)

Moccasin Creek

T12N R18W. Drains into Greenough Creek, a branch of the Clark Fork River, about ¼½ miles w. of Clinton. The name is supposed to have originated with the Forest Service and, therefore, would have come into
existence after 1906. Previous to that time, this small stream had no name. (Forest Swartz)

Moe Gulch
T11N R17W. Enters the Clark Fork River 2 miles w.s. w. of Bonita Ranger Station. Named for Peter Moe, a trapper, who purchased the gulch from Jack Rye and settled there around 1910. (Mrs. Nettle)

Mormon Creek
T12N R20W. A n.e. flowing creek which meets Lolo Creek about 1\(\frac{1}{2}\) miles above its confluence with the Bitterroot River. A group of Mormons settled for a short time in the Bitterroot Valley near the mouth of this creek. Settlement was made some time during the 1870's; the majority of these families left the country in the 1890's. Erroneously transcribed as Morrison Creek on the 1946 county map. (Darrel D. Weaver, Mrs. Edna Tucker)

Mormon Peak
T11N R20W. App. ½ mile n. of Mormon Creek headwaters. (See Mormon Creek)

Morrell Creek
T16N R15W. Rising in the n. and running into the Clearwater River about 2 miles s. of Seeley Lake. Named in 1912 after Fred Morrell who was at that time Chief Forester of Region #1. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Morrell Flats
T16N R15W. This flat country along the lower end of
Morrell Creek was originally called Poverty Flats due to the number of hastily erected shacks in the area. Later settlers were not as transitory as those preceding them and did not appreciate this derogatory appellation. The result was a change to its present name. (See Morrell Creek) (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Morrison Creek (See West Fork of Cramer Creek)

Mosquito Peak

T15N R18W. Prominent peak neighboring Montana Power's "Rattlesnake Lakes." The circumstances surrounding the name giving of this promontory are unknown, but the reason is obvious. A traveler to this region during certain periods of spring and early summer would be well advised to be supplied with insect repellent, as the region is usually infested with mosquitoes. (Ralph Cronin)

Mount Dean Stone

T12N R19W. 5 miles s. of Missoula. Named for Dean Arthur L. Stone, founder of the school of journalism at Montana State University and author of Following Old Trails, a work of critical local historical significance. The name was applied officially to the 6100 foot peak on March 31, 1947, by the decision of the United States Board on geographic names. This decision was the result of requests from the Montana Mountaineer's Club, western Forest Service officials, and Montana newspapermen. Dean Stone died in 1945,
two years previous to his official commemoration in geographic nomenclature. (Great Falls Tribune, March 31, 1947.)

Previous Names: "The mountain has been known variously as Black Butte and Pattee Point. It also has frequently been mistaken for Mitten Mountain, which is one mile to the east." (Great Falls Tribune, March 31, 1947)

Mount Henry

T17N R16W 6 miles n.w. of Seeley Lake. Arthur Henry had a homestead on the West Fork (Clearwater River), a short distance n. of this mountain, but it is not definitely known if the mountain was named for him. There is reason to believe that the mountain was so named before Henry's arrival in the region. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Mount Jumbo

T13N R19W. Overlooking n.e. Missoula. The name was adopted by early Missoula residents in the latter 1800's. From a certain angle, this mountain resembles the back of an elephant, such as the famous Barnum circus elephant. During the late 1870's Barnum had an elephant, the largest in captivity, named Jumbo. (J. P. Rowe) (See JUMBO in Glossary)

Previous Indian Name: Si-nim-koo. In the Salish Indian language, meaning "a big bump, an obstacle, something in the way." (Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate
Mount Sentinel

T13N R19W. Overlooking Montana State University and w. Missoula. One version suggests a transfer of the name from a neighboring mountain and the other designates an Indian origin.

(1) The word "Sentinel" has been translated from the Salish *Es-mock* or *Eshmock*. "In the long ago of Indian lore Mount Sentinel was known as *Es-mock* and *Eshmock*, meaning a 'high point, a lookout, a place to look far.' Mount Sentinel served as a sentinel station for the Indians who could observe the country for miles around." (Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960.)

(2) This mountain was originally named University Peak because of its proximity to the Montana State University campus. "According to United States Forest Service maps, the peak behind the university is University Peak. Mount Sentinel is the one with the beacon on it in Hellgate Canyon." (Propes, The Fascinating Missoula, Montana)

Mountaineer Lake

T16N R18W. 1 mile s.e. of Mountaineer Peak, which is on the Missoula-Lake Co. border following the Mission Range divide. (See Mountaineer Peak)

Mountaineer Peak

T16N R18W. On the Missoula-Lake Co. border. Pos-
sibly named by a party of Montana Mountaineers.
(John Stark)

Murphy Creek

T17N R15W. A s.w. flowing stream joining the Clearwater River app. 3½ miles n.w. of Seeley Lake Ranger Station. Named for Mose Murphy, a lumberjack, who in 1918 died of pneumonia in his cabin on the n. shore of Seeley Lake. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Murphy Peak

T15N R19W. On the ridge separating the Rattlesnake Creek drainage from the former Flathead Indian Reservation app. 12 miles n. of Missoula. Transferred from a previous name of Stuart Peak. (See Stuart Peak) (Forrest H. Poe)

T14N R18W. (See Stuart Peak)

Nagos

T14N R20W. N.P.R.R. siding 9 miles n.w. of Missoula. The station was established in 1907. It is claimed that this siding was put in by an Italian gang who were commonly referred to as "Dagos." Later railroad employees wished to take the derogatory meaning out of the name, so it was changed to the present meaningless word "Nagos." (J. P. Rowe)

Necklace Lakes

T20N R15W. On the course of Smoky Creek in extreme n.e. Missoula Co. These numerous small lakes are strung together in such a fashion that, in an aerial
view, they resemble a necklace. (Lester Perro)

Nine Mile

T15N R22W. N.P.R.R. siding located, as the name implies, 9 miles w. of Frenchtown. Named from Nine Mile House which was formerly near the junction of the present Ninemile Creek and the Old Mullan Road. (See Ninemile Creek) (J. P. Rowe)

Ninemile Creek

T15N R22W. Flows from the n.w. and intersects with the Clark Fork River 9 miles w. of Frenchtown. Also Nine Mile Creek, but the one word form is coming into more common use. So named because the Old Mullan Road crossed the creek 9 miles above Frenchtown. The present name succeeded Skiotah about 1877. (Chester Abbott; John Hossack; W. W. Schmitz; U. S. War Dept., Map Illustrating the Route of General Sherman.)

Previous Indian Name: Skiotah or Skah-o-tay. Name transferred from the former Skiotah Peak. (See Squaw Peak) Lieutenant John Mullan refers to "the crossing of Skah-o-tay creek" in late June of 1860. (Chester Abbott; Mullan's Military Road, p. 50.)

Nine Mile Divide

T17N R24W. Bounding the headwaters of Ninemile Creek tributaries originating in the s.w. (See Nine-mile Creek)

Nine Mile Ranger Station

T15N R22W. App. 8 1/2 miles w.n.w. of Frenchtown.
110

Used in this study as a point of reference. (See Ninemile Creek)

North Fork (Blanchard Creek)

T15N R14W. Branch from the n.w. joining Blanchard Creek about 2 miles upstream from its confluence with the Blackfoot River. (See Blanchard Creek)

North Fork (Gold Creek)

T21N R17W. Connecting Gold Lake with Gold Creek in n.w. Missoula Co. (See Gold Creek)

North Fork (Granite Creek)

T11N R24W. Joining the n. and lower end of Granite Creek app. 2 miles above Lolo Hot Springs. (See Granite Creek)

North Fork (Howard Creek)

T12N R23W. Rising in the n. and emptying into Howard Creek about 1 mile n.w. of Lolo Ranger Station. (See Howard Creek)

O'Brien Creek

T13N R20W. Drains into the Bitterroot River from the w. app. 1 mile s. of the confluence with the Clark Fork River. Named for David O'Brien who settled and built his cabin in 1869 or 1870 on or near the present site of the W. C. Maclay barn. It is possible that O'Brien arrived previous to 1869, as Major Owen refers to a settler named O'Brien in an entree dated January 6, 1867.

Observatory Creek (See Rattlesnake Creek)

O'Keefe Canyon

T114N R20W. Approaches the Clark Fork River from the n.e. and has its mouth 4 miles s. of Frenchtown.

Cornelius C. O'Keefe, popularly known as the "Baron," established a ranch in this canyon in the late 1850's. This ranch was about 12 miles n. of the former site of Hell Gate. O'Keefe was a colorful character in early Hell Gate Valley history, but he is probably chiefly remembered in connection with the first trial in Hell Gate which "was at best a travesty of justice, and a drama of personalities bent on proving themselves right. The date of the trial was March 20, 1862, Hell Gate Town, Washington Territory."

(Partoll, Missoula-Hell Gate Centennial, 1860-1960.)

Previous Name: Coriackan/Koriackan/Defile.

"Some time in the 1840's, three Kanakas (Hawaiian Islanders) who had been employed by Francois Ermatinger at Fort Hall journeyed toward the Flathead Lake country. They came via the Big Hole basin, across the divide and down the Bitterroot Valley. At the 'Sooughtipkine' crossing of the Hell Gate River... the Kanakas found camped a considerable number of Sailish, who warned them that the Blackfeet might be lurking in the vicinity of the pass...The advice was not heeded. The Kanakas were ambushed just at the entrance to the canyon and murdered....The bodies were
buried where found by the Salish, under the county road as it now runs. One of the Kanakas was named Koriacka and from that time the canyon was for many years known as the Koriacken or Coriacken Defile, after the leader of the victims."

(Will Cave, "Will Cave Gives More Facts about Western Montana Names," Missoulian, May 21, 1922.)

Old Town

T17N R21W. Located on the mouth of St. Louis Creek along the headwaters of Ninemile Creek. The original settlement of the gold strike on Ninemile Creek. The site was abandoned and moved app. 2½ miles downstream to Martina (See Martina) when Patrick McElligott and his partner struck gold e. of Mattie V. Creek in the 1890's. After its abandonment, this site became known as "Old Town." (See Pat Creek) (Patrick McElligott)

Oliver Creek

T17N R25W. Diminutive stream originating near Nine Mile Divide and flowing into Devil's Creek, a source of Ninemile Creek, in extreme n.w. Missoula Co. Named after a man who mined in this area in the last years of the nineteenth century. Details are lacking. (Patrick McElligott)

One-Horse Creek

T11N R21W. Flows s. from the base of Lolo Peak into Ravalli Co. There was a small or "one-horse" town near the mouth of this creek (in Ravalli Co.) in the
1860's which consisted of a saloon, barn, store, and road house. The site was shortly abandoned. (Woody, Reminiscences of F. H. Woody.)

Owl Creek

T16N R15W. Drains Placid Lake and empties into the Clearwater River a short distance above the n. end of Salmon Lake. The exact origin is uncertain, but according to local tradition the owls were weather indicators. Whenever the owls were heard hooting, the residents could expect a change in the weather. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Panoramic Peak

T19N R18W. On Missoula-Lake Co. border and forming part of the Mission Range Divide. An excellent, panoramic view from this peak includes 9 or 10 neighboring lakes. (Robert Van Gieson)

Parshall Gulch

T11N R17W. S. branch of the Clark Fork River app. 2½ miles s. of Clinton. This name, although accepted among local residents, is not recorded on the county map or Forest Service map; therefore, the orthography is uncertain. Seth Parshall and his wife lived in this gulch during the period 1902-1904 while he cut ties for the N.P.R.R. (Forest Swartz)

Pat's Creek

T17N R24W. Immediately below the abandoned gold mining camp of Martina on Ninemile Creek. Named after
Patrick McElligott, father of the informant. The sign has been taken down in recent years, and the name does not appear on the 1946 county map. Pat made a strike in this vicinity (See Mattie V. Creek) in the 1890's and used the money for an extended visit to his home town in Ireland. McElligott returned to this area and spent the remainder of his life trying to make another rich strike. (Patrick McElligott)

Pattee Canyon

T12N R19W. Extends w.s.w. from the s. city limits of Missoula. David Pattee, the man responsible for the name, arrived in Fort Owen in 1856. In his short stay at the fort, Pattee rebuilt the sawmill and gristmill for Major Owen. He left Fort Owen in 1865 and took up land along the small creek which runs through the canyon bearing his name. Pattee was the original locator of the ground formerly known as the Higgin's Ranch where the creek leaves the canyon. In a description by Hutchens: "David Pattee was six feet and one inch tall, lanky, a pioneer, and a mighty good citizen. Also, like many pioneers, he was so restless that three creeks in Missoula County have been named after him and their names are all spelled differently." (See Josephine Creek, Pattee Creek, and Petty Creek)

(J. P. Rowe; Woody, Montana Historical Society Con-
Pattee Creek

T13N R19W. Rivulet running through Pattee Canyon.
(See Pattee Canyon)

Pattee Mountain

T12N R19W. App. 1 1/2 miles s. of the headwaters of Pattee Creek. (See Pattee Canyon)
Obsolete Name: Pattee Point.

Pattee Point (See Mount Dean Stone)

Pendant Creek

T20N R15W. A w. tributary of upper Big Salmon Creek. This name probably has been mistakenly transcribed on the 1946 county map, as local residents call it Pennant Creek, for what reason, however, they do not know. (R. W. Wilhelm)

Petite Creek (See Petty Creek)

Petty Creek

T14N R23W. Flowing n. from the Petty Creek Divide to its confluence with the Clark Fork River near Lothrop. Opinions differ on the origin of the name.
(1) Originally Pattee Creek (See Pattee Creek), but the name was changed to its slightly altered form to avoid confusion with another Pattee Creek in the county. (J. P. Rowe)
(2) Probably a corruption of the French *petite*, meaning "small." It is called Petite Creek on the old GLO township plats. (Elers Koch)
Petty Creek Divide

T12-13N R22-23W. Dividing the drainages of Petty Creek on the n. and Graves Creek on the s. (See Petty Creek)

Petty Mountain

T13N R22W. In the Graves Creek Range and located app. 21 1/2 miles e. of Petty Creek. (See Petty Creek)

Pierce Creek

T19N R16W. Flows w. from its origin in Pierce Lake to its junction with Beaver Creek, a major tributary of the Swan River. In recognition of Pierce, a lumberman, who settled in the Seeley Lake country sometime during the first decade of the twentieth century. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Pierce Lake

T19N R16W. Small lake about 3 1/2 miles n.n.w. of Rainy Lake. (See Pierce Creek)

Pilcher Creek

T14N R16W. Heads generally s. from its origin at the base of Stuart Peak to its meeting with Rattlesnake Creek. Jeff Pilcher, a Confederate Civil War veteran, filed water rights along this creek previous to 1901. Pilcher's homestead, a short distance above the juncture with Lime Kiln Creek, was purchased by Bowen when Pilcher died in 1913. (Forrest H. Poe)

Pilot Knob Mountain

T11N R24W. On the Montana-Idaho state border nearly
6 miles w. of Lolo Hot Springs. The word "pilot" is used in the sense of guiding or directing. This knob is prominent because of its height and can be seen for a long distance from any direction. It is to hunters and trappers as the North Star was to sea voyagers of past centuries, an ideal guide post for ascertaining direction and location. (Gilbert Wendover)

Piltzville

T13N R18W. App. 8 miles e. of Missoula via U. S. Highway 10. Named after William (Bill) Piltz, stepfather of the informant, who came to Bonner in 1896 or 1897. Piltz, a native of Maine, homesteaded in 1904 on the present site of Piltzville. Shortly thereafter, the locality was surveyed and received the name, Piltz Addition. After people began settling in the area, the town became known as Piltzville.

(Mrs. Ben Wise)

Pine Creek

T16N R23W. N. branch of Ninemile Creek 5½ miles s.e. of the former site of Martina. The name refers to a beautiful row of pines along the bank of the stream. (Patrick McElligott)

Placid Creek

T17N R15W. Flows from the n.w. and into Placid Lake in e. Missoula Co. (See Placid Lake)

Placid Lake
TL6N R15W. On a Clearwater River tributary about 4 miles s. of Seeley Lake. Named by a Mr. Blanchard after a lake in his native state, New York. Blanchard established a cattle and sheep ranch in the area in 1899 or 1900. (W. K. Samsel)

Porte de l'Enfer (See Hellgate Canyon)

Post

TL3N R19W. An abandoned small trading center a short distance s.w. of the city limits of Missoula. So named because of its proximity to the military post, Fort Missoula. (J. P. Rowe)

Potato Gulch

TL2N R22W. Empties into Lolo Creek app. 4 miles below Lolo Ranger Station. Two explanations were offered:

(1) Gus Harrison took up a claim there around 1908-1909. The gulch has since been associated with the bountiful crops of potatoes raised by Harrison on a small delta of ground which had favorable gardening conditions. (Frank Doolittle)

(2) Referring to an old Chinaman who once planted potatoes in the gulch. Details are lacking.

(Ross Middlemist, Mrs. Edna Tucker)

Potomac

TL3N R16W. Small town located near the junction of Union Creek and Camas Creek in s.e. Missoula Co.

R. S. Ashby, an early resident of this town, came
from a section of Virginia bordering the Potomac River. Ashby named the town after the river in his native state. upon his arrival in 1893. (Butte Miner, p. 8; J. P. Rowe)
Previous Name: Camas Prairie. (See Camas Creek)
Poverty Flats (See Morrell Flats)

Powell Creek

T111N R23W. Rivulet emptying into Lolo Creek slightly over 1 mile n.e. of Lolo Hot Springs. Named after Charley Powell, a trapper of the late 1800's. Powell Ranger Station in Clearwater Co., Idaho, has the same origin. Powell's cabin, abandoned in 1909, is still standing at the mouth of the creek. (Ross Middlemist, Mrs. Herman Gerber)

Primrose

T111N R20W. C.M. & St. P. electric sub-station app.
6½ miles s.e. of Frenchtown. Probably so designated because of the primroses growing profusely in this part of Grass Valley. (Edmond Hamel)

Printer's Creek

T13N R23W. W. tributary of Petty Creek. A printer by trade, whose name has been forgotten, settled for a short time in the late 1880's or early 1890's at the mouth of this creek. He suddenly decided to leave and was never seen again by local residents. (W. W. Schmitz)

Prune River (See Jocko River)
Rainy Lake
T18N R16W. App. 9 miles n.n.w. of Seeley Lake in n. Missoula Co. Mr. Bailey, engineer in charge of the party that ran the survey for the Butte, Anaconda, and Pacific R.R., so named this lake because it rained practically all the time that the party was in the locality. According to residents of the area, it invariably rains there while surrounding country remains dry. (W. K. Samsel, Dr. Warren E. Thieme, Peter Rovero)

Ramon Creek
T15N R21W. Flows into the Clark Fork River from the n. app. 1 mile w. of Frenchtown. Roman Creek, as shown on the 1946 county map, is a misnomer. Named after a Mr. Ramon of French descent who, in the latter nineteenth century, owned a ranch which extended from where this creek emerges from the hills to its crossing by U. S. Highway 10. The last surviving family member, Mrs. Ramon, died in 1920 at the age of 70. (Edmond, Flore, and Blanche Hamel)

Rattlesnake Creek
T13N R19W. Runs generally s. toward Missoula from its major sources, Montana Power's "Rattlesnake lakes." Two theories have been proposed for the origin of the name:
(1) The creek was christened "Rattlesnake" by one of the early trappers who delighted in substituting
for the poetical Indian name some recollection of his own adventurous experiences. (Ronan, *Historical Sketch of Northwest Montana and Missoula.*) This name was in use before the period of white settlement, as witnessed in Mullan's journal:
"In three-fourths of a mile, we came to Rattlesnake Creek, which is one-fourth of a mile from the mouth of the [Hellgate] canon." (Mullan's *Military Road*, p. 111)

(2) A popular legend tells of one of the men on Lewis and Clark's expedition who was bitten by a rattlesnake while the party was camping on the creek. The man died and was buried on the banks of the Rattlesnake Creek. Later travelers read the inscription on a monument set up to describe how this man died and, as a result, started calling the creek by its present name. (Forrest H. Poe)

According to one authority, either of the two previous explanations is logical, as in past years there were a large number of rattlesnakes along the creek drainage. (Arthur L. Wisherd)

Previous Names: *Inelkie* is a Salish word which, translated means "stream of many salmon trout." (Ronan, *Historical Sketch of Northwestern Montana and Missoula*) The name "Observatory Creek" co-existed with Rattlesnake Creek at the time of Lieutenant John Mullan's report in 1860. (Mullan's *Military Road*, p. 111.)
Raucine au Mer (See Bitterroot River)

Red Butte

T19N R18W. 5 miles w. of n. end of Lindbergh Lake. Name descriptive of a rock formation which extends above the timberline. A temporary lookout was formerly on this butte. (See BUTTE in Glossary) (John Stark, Peter Rovero)

Red Butte Creek

T19N R17W. Extends n.e. from its upper waters at the base of Red Butte to its intersection with Kraft Creek, a tributary of Glacier Creek. (See Red Butte)

Rennic Creek

T15N R22W. Stream from the s.w. joining Ninemile Creek about 1½ miles w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. Name has been erroneously transcribed as Remmic Creek on the 1946 county map. Refers to Mrs. J. W. Rennic, one of the original settlers in the Nine Mile district. Surviving descendants of Mrs. Rennic are Waldron Rennic and Charles Rennic, members of the fifth generation. (Patrick McElligott, City of Missoula burial records)

Ricard Gulch

T11N R17W. Empties into Rock Creek from the w. less than 1 mile from the Clark Fork River. Shown as Richard Gulch on the 1939 Forest Service map. Named for James (Jimmy) Ricard who settled in the gulch around 1900. (Theresa Corra)
Rice Creek

T17N R15W. Direct drainage into n. Seeley Lake.
Two possibilities for the origin exist, but the first is preferred:
(1) Named after John Rice, a former ranger and scaler on the old Seeley Lake timber sale. (W. K. Samuel)
(2) A popular legend refers to a homesteader (presumably an early white settler) who had obtained all of his winter food supply and was hauling it to his home. There was some type of mishap and the supply of rice spilled out of the wagon, supposedly near the creek whose name bears testimony to the incident. (Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

Richmond Creek

T18N R15W. Flows from the n.e. into the n. end of Alva Lake. With reference to "Sandhill Joe" Richmond who succeeded the informant in the position of county road surveyor. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Richmond Peak

T18N R15W. In the Swan's Range 4 miles e. of Alva Lake. (See Richmond Creek)

Rock Creek

T11N R17W. Enters Missoula Co. from the s. and joins with the Clark Fork River app. 1 1/2 miles w.s.w. of Bonita Ranger Station. The name has been established by long usage. Evidently, the creek was so
designated because it "flows through a narrow canyon with steep, rocky sidehills" in the lower end of the drainage. (Siria, "Rock Creek, Past and Present," Bonita Ranger Station place name records.)

Previous Names: Rocky Creek and South Branch. Lieutenant Mullan is responsible for both previous names. He originally called this stream Rocky Creek because it was "rapid, large, and two feet deep, with big boulders in its bed." (November 24, 1859, p. 112)

Mullan later referred to the present Rock Creek as the South Branch because it was the largest tributary of the Hellgate River flowing from the s. (September 26, 1860) Mullan's two names for Rock Creek were used concurrently by 1877 and were both given by map-makers. (Mullan's Military Road, p. 157; U. S. War Dept., Map Illustrating the Route of General Sherman.)

Rocky Point

T11N R22W. Location shared by three counties in two states, Missoula and Ravalli Cos, in Montana and Clearwater Co. in Idaho. Name descriptive of the top of the mountain, that which is nearly solid rock and is known as the "point." (Gilbert Wendover, Frank Doolittle)

Roosevelt Lake

T15N R18W. An adjoining lake not included in Montana Power's "Rattlesnake lakes." (See Sheridan Lake) Honoring Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of
the United States (1901-1909). The name was given by the Forest Service in the period 1908-1912, either during or immediately following Roosevelt's term of office. (Ralph Cronin)

Rubble Lake

T20N R15W. Upper end of Big Salmon Creek drainage in extreme n.e. Missoula Co. The lake is situated directly below a rocky ridge. A great amount of rubble from frequent rock slides is deposited in the lake, hence the name. (R. W. Wilhelm, John Stark)

Rumble Creek

T20N R16W. Empties into the Swan River 1 1/2 miles above Condon Ranger Station. Authoritative evidence on the origin of this name is unavailable, but three theories have been proposed:

(1) In the early 1900's, a sawmill constructed on the banks of this stream utilized the swift flowing, "rumbling" stream. (Mrs. Hilda Johnson)

(2) There are a number of snow slides going down into the canyon, accounting for occasional loud, rumbling noises. (R. W. Wilhelm)

(3) In the area at the head of the creek, the acoustics are perfect. A rolling pebble can be heard very clearly across the lake. A few falling rocks rumble like an avalanche. (John Stark)

Rumble Creek Lake

T21N R16W. On headwaters of Rumble Creek 6 miles e.
of Condon Ranger Station. (See Rumble Creek)

St. Ignatius River (See Clark Fork River)

St. Louis Creek

T17N R24W. Flows s. to its juncture with the upper end of Ninemile Creek near the former site of Old Town. Two brothers from Frenchtown, Louie and Eustache Barrette, discovered gold on two adjacent tributaries of Ninemile Creek. The Barrettes were the original settlers of Old Town. (See Old Town) St. Louis Creek was named for Louie, the one brother.

(Patrick McElligott)

St. Mary's River (See Bitterroot River)

Sally Creek

T10N R24W. Uppermost headwaters of Lolo Creek drainage in extreme s.w. Missoula Co. Named in or shortly after 1904, the year in which Sally Thompson and her daughter, Lee, were lost in the vicinity of this creek and Lee Creek. For detailed information: (See Lee Creek) (Mrs. Herman Gerber)

Salmon Lake

T16N R14W. About 3½ miles n. of the Clearwater Junction in e. Missoula Co. The appellation is a reflection of the normally good salmon trout fishing in the lake. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Sander's Lake

T15N R19W. Lake #4 in Montana Power's system of storage lakes above Rattlesnake Dam. (See Sheridan
Lake. The origin of the name is not known. Timber was cleared around the lake in 1911 in preparation for the dam construction in the fall of 1912 and the summer of 1913. (Ralph Cronin)

Sapphire Lake

T20N R15W. Above and app. 2½ miles n.e. of Holland Lake. Descriptive name. This small, "sapphire blue" body of water, which is surrounded by a rocky bed, resembles a mounted sapphire stone. (Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

Concurrent Names: The more popular local designation, Alpine Lake, arises from the scrubby pines and alpine flowers in the vicinity. (Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

Sapphire Mountains

T11-12N R18-19W. Mountain range s.e. of Missoula dividing the drainages of the Clark Fork River on the e. and the Bitterroot River on the w. The commercial sapphire mining operations around 1912 along the headwaters of Rock Creek (in the Sapphire Mountains) suggest the origin of this name. Commercial mining was abandoned shortly after its inception, but individuals may still dig for sapphires upon payment of a determined fee. (Forest Swartz)

Sappho Creek

T21N R15W. Flows s.e. into Big Salmon Creek in n.e. Missoula Co. (See Sappho Lake)

Sappho Lake
T21N R15W. On the headwaters of Sappho Creek. The precipices overlooking the lake have produced the inspiration for the name. In English folk lore, Sappho, a dismayed lover, leaped from the Leucadian promontory. Sappho was probably used in this context to refer to the "Lover's Leap" suggested by the precipices. (Fred Kaser; Stuart, *Names on the Land*, p. 129.)

**Sawmill Gulch**

T11\(\text{N}\) R19W. On the Rattlesnake Creek app. 3 miles n. of Missoula. A sawmill operated in the mouth of the gulch near the beginning of the twentieth century. (Forrest H. Poe)

**Saw Pit Creek**

T17\(\text{N}\) R2\(\text{W}\). Flows into Ninemile Creek from the s.w. 2 miles below Old Town. The name was derived from a saw pit which was dug some time during the gold strikes in this area in the late 1800's or early 1900's. The pit, located near the mouth of the creek, was designed to whip-saw lumber for sluice boxes. (Patrick McElligott)

**Sawyer Creek**

T17\(\text{N}\) R15W. Drains from the n.w. and into the Clearwater River app. 1 mile n. of Seeley Lake. Named after a local resident. Other information is lacking. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

**Schilling**
T15N R21W. An N.P.R.R. siding between Frenchtown and Huson. Named after the president of the pulp mill company presently using this railroad siding. (Edmond Hamel)

Previous Names: Gaspard and Mellady.

(1) Originally called Gaspard with reference to Gaspard Deschamps who came to Missoula in 1877 from Montreal, Canada, and opened a blacksmith shop in Missoula. (Miller, *An Illustrated History of the State of Montana*, pp. 512-513.)

(2) The name was changed to Mellady around 1900 in remembrance of Father Mellady, parish priest of Frenchtown in the late nineteenth century.

(Edmond, Flore, and Blanche Hamel)

Schley

T16N R19W. An N.P.R.R. siding app. 10½ miles n.e. of Frenchtown. Established in 1899 and named in honor of Rear Admiral Schley, U. S. Navy, who had just attained national and international fame in the war with Spain. (J. P. Rowe)

Schley Creek

T16N R19W. Flows generally w. and joins with upper Finley Creek near Schley siding. (See Schley)

Schwartz Creek

T12N R17W. Flows n.e. into the Clark Fork River at a point 2 miles s. of Clinton. Charles A. Swartz came to this country in 1888-1889 and settled along
the creek which presently is known by an erroneous transcription of the family name. (Mrs. Lee Elliot, John D. Freudenrich, Mrs. Nettle)

Previous Name: Birch Creek. Swartz homesteaded across the creek from the present Forest Swartz residence, naming this stream "Birch Creek" in 1900. The name was changed to Swartz Creek by the land surveyors in the period 1902-1904 to avoid confusion arising from the numerous Birch Creeks in the region. (Forest Swartz)

Seeley Creek

T17N R15W. Drains into the lower end of Seeley Lake from the n. (See Seeley Lake)

Seeley Lake

T17N R15W. Located in e. Missoula Co. app. 13 miles n,w. of Clearwater Junction. Honoring Jasper B. Seeley, who settled on this lake about 1890 and homesteaded near the mouth of Seeley Creek in 1897. (W. K. Samsel)

Seeley Lake Ranger Station

T17N R15W. On e. shores of upper Seeley Lake. (See Seeley Lake)

Shaw Mountain

T20N R15W. On Missoula-Powell Co. border about 5 miles e. of Holland Lake. Named after Ezra Shaw, United States Forest Ranger in the Seeley Lake district from 1916 to 1919. Shaw was a 1915 graduate of
Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the service during World War I and never returned to Missoula Co. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Sheep Flats

T14N R16W. That part of the land along the Blackfoot River which is n.w. of Potomac. During the first decade of the 1900's, two sheep ranchers from Washington, Fernandez and Martinez, shipped carloads of sheep to the low, grassy pasture land which is now called "Sheep Flats." For several years, these ranchers would send a carload of sheep every spring to take advantage of the excellent summer grazing in the area. The Montana Fish and Game Commission stopped this practice, however, because the sheep were devouring the winter forage for game. The commission imposed a heavy tax upon the sheep, thus making this grazing procedure financially unfeasible. (Jack Whittaker, Russel F. Winter)

Sheldon Creek

T12N R22W. N. branch of Lolo Creek 4 miles e. of Lolo Ranger Station. Named for Darwin and Alvina Sheldon who homesteaded near the mouth of the creek in the 1890's. The Sheldon's cabin was app. 1 mile up the creek. They stayed long enough to claim ownership and then moved to Missoula. (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Frank Doolittle)

Sheridan Lake
T15N R18W. Headwater lake of Rattlesnake Creek n. of Missoula. Named after William Sheridan, a past employee of Montana Power Company, who was caretaker of the Rattlesnake Dam drainage system from 1908 to 1915, the year of his death. Sheridan, a bachelor, was born in the Bitterroot Valley and was a lifetime resident of Missoula and Ravalli Cos. He was instrumental in "constructing" most of the Rattlesnake lakes. This construction involved modifying the lake beds by mechanical processes to produce more adequate storage space for the late summer months when the water supply is low.

Information as to the dates of construction work for each of these lakes was taken from Missoula Light and Water Company maps printed in August of 1915. Construction data is inserted by Sheridan. The Forest Service names and Montana Power's numerical designations for the lakes in this water system are as follows: #1 Glacier Lake, #2 Little Lake, #3 Big Lake, #4 Sander's Lake, #5 Sheridan Lake, #6 McKinley Lake, #7 Worden Lake, and #8 Carter Lake. The dam on Sheridan Lake was constructed in 1918.

(Ralph Cronin)

Shoemaker Peak

T18N R18W. In the vicinity of the upper headwaters of the Swan River. Named by the Forest Service in the summer of 1960 to commemorate a past employee,
Ted Shoemaker. (United States Forest Service official
document)

Shoofly Meadows

T14N R17W. Area to the e. of the former site of
Franklin Ranger Station. Undoubtedly so named because
these swampy lowlands are infested with flies and
mosquitoes, presenting a problem to the traveler dur­
ing certain seasons. (Arthur L. Wisherd)

Siegal Pass

T17N R25W. Crossing Nine Mile Divide in extreme
n.w. Missoula Co. Named for John Siegal, an early
trapper. (John F. Hossack)

Six Mile Creek

T15N R22W. Flows s.w. to its confluence with the
Clark Fork River 3 miles s.e. of Nine Mile Ranger
Station. The place at which this creek is traversed
by U. S. Highway 10 is 6 miles w. of Frenchtown,
hence the name. In the 1860's and early 1870's,
Frenchtown was larger than Missoula and, consequen­
tly, the hub of trade and travel. (Edmond, Flore,
and Blanche Hamel)

Previous Indian Name: Kul-ko-laau. Six Mile Creek is
given this Salish name on an 1877 map. In Lieuten­
ant John Mullan's journal: "From this ford the road
ascends a hill of four hundred feet in height, and
then taking successive open timbered plateaus, cros­
ses the Kul-ko-laau creek, and comes into the western
end of Hell Gate rode..." The origin of this word is unknown.

(DeLacy, Map of the Territory of Montana; Mullan's Military Road, July, 1860, p. 51.)

Skookum Butte

T11N R22W. On the Montana-Idaho border. Received its name from "Skookum" Bill Woodman who was a Forest Service employee in the Lolo district during the early 1900's. "Skookum" Bill was a colorful character in early Missoula County history. He was unmistakably identified by the brilliant red hair which hung down to his shoulders. (See SKOOKUM in Glossary) (Ross Middlemist)

Sleeman Creek

T12N R20W. Heads in a s.e. course to its junction with Lolo Creek app. 1 1/2 miles w. of Lolo. Homesteaded by Richard Sleeman, a man of English descent, during the 1880's. (Ted Williams, Mrs. Edna Tucker)

Previous Name: Lost Creek. Origin unknown.

Sleeping Elk Lake

T18N R17W. Headwater lake of Swan River in Mission Range. Named by "Cap" Eli Laird around 1930. (See Angel's Bathing Pool) Former residents used to chase elk over Lindy Peak and into the vicinity of what is now Sleeping Elk Lake. (John Stark)

Smith Creek

T21N R17W. Flowing in a n.w. course into the Swan River in Lake Co. Named between 1900 and 1910 for a
man who once settled on the creek and built a cabin close to the original site of the Condon Ranger Station. (Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

T12N R22W. N. tributary of Lolo Creek app. ½ miles e. of Lolo Ranger Station. Named for the Schmitz family who settled near the mouth of Woodman Creek in the late 1800's. The Schmitzes vacated their home with the outbreak of Rocky Mountain spotted fever and moved to the Petty Creek territory, a region unafflicted by the epidemic. The name has been corrupted to its present form in later years. (Ted Williams, Frank Doolittle)

Previous Name: Originally called Long Mac Creek for Jack McDonald, a native of Canada, who had a cabin in the mouth of the gulch around 1900. The "Long" in Long Mac Creek referred to "Mac's" stature. (Frank Doolittle)

Smith Flats

T21N R17W. Present location of Condon Ranger Station in n. Missoula Co. (See Smith Creek--T21N R17W)

Smoky Creek

T20N R15W. Branches into Cataract Creek which, in turn, flows into Big Salmon Creek in n.e. Missoula Co. Refers to "Smoky" Belew, a trapper in the area who married an Austrian duchess. The duchess suddenly disappeared, but "Smoky" hunted and trapped in this country for several years thereafter. (Dr. Warren E.
Thieme

Soldier Creek

T17N R24W. N. branch of upper Ninemile Creek. A veteran of the Civil War whose name is not remembered homesteaded or camped on the creek previous to 1900. (Patrick McElligott)

Soudan

T15N R22W. C.M. & St.P. railroad siding 2 1/2 miles s. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. Constructed in 1907 when the rock fill for the railroad tracks was being put in across Nine Mile Canyon. The origin of "Soudan" is not known. (Patrick McElligott)

South Branch of Hellgate River (See Rock Creek)

South Fork (Gilbert Creek)

T11N R17W. Joins Gilbert Creek from the s. about 2 1/2 miles from the mouth of the latter creek. (See Gilbert Creek)

South Fork (Jocko River)

T17N R17W. Flows n.w. to its confluence with the Jocko River in Lake Co. (See Jocko River)

South Fork (Lolo Creek)

T11N R21W. Major tributary of Lolo Creek from the s. (See Lolo)

South Fork (Petty Creek)

T13N R22W. S. headwaters of Petty Creek. (See Petty Creek)

Spaulding Ridge

T17N R15W. Small divide to the e. of Seeley Lake
which runs north-south along the Missoula-Powell Co. border. Named after Dean T. C. Spaulding of the school of forestry in Montana State University. (W. K. Samsel)

Spook Lake
T15N R16W. On the headwaters of Boles Creek nearly 3 miles s.w. of Placid Lake. The lake is nothing more than a "pothole" closely bordered with heavy timber. Anyone groping his way through the dense timber would feel that this lake, as the name suggests, is set in "spooky" surroundings. (See SPOOK in Glossary) (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Spring Gulch
T14N R19W. Flows into Rattlesnake Creek from the n.w. about 3½ miles n.n.e. of Missoula. Named by the Forest Service because the gulch is fed by several mountain springs. (Forrest H. Poe)

Springs Point
T12N R23W. 2½ miles n. of Lolo Hot Springs. Obviously derived its name from the proximity to the hot springs. (See Lolo Creek)

Squaw Peak
T16N R22W. On the divide between former Flathead Indian Reservation and Ninemile Creek. This designation is taken from the Narraganset squaw, probably an abbreviation of eskwaw. As a term for woman, squaw has been adopted by Indians on reservations of
the West who have taken it from the whites. (J. P. Rowe)

Previous Indian Name: Skiotah Peak. This word came from the Salish Skah-o-tay. In 1860, Lieutenant John Mullan referred to "the crossing of Skah-o-tay Creek." It is deducible from the English translation, Squaw’s Tit, that the word referred to the peak in a descriptive sense. Therefore, the creek received its name from the peak. (See Ninemile Creek) The name was changed to its present form by the United States Geographic Board in 1921 to avoid vulgarity.

(John F. Hossack; Patrick McElligott; Mullan’s Military Road, p. 50; United States Geographic Board Decisions, 5th Report in 1921.)

Squaw’s Tit (See Squaw Peak)

Stark

T15N R23W. 3½ miles n.w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station on Ninemile Creek. A discontinued p.o. named for General Stark of Revolutionary fame.

("How Many Montana Towns on Milwaukee Railroad were Named," Hardin Tribune Herald, March 27, 1931.)

Stark Creek

T16N R23W. Enters Ninemile Creek from the s. about ½ mile above the former site of Stark. (See Stark)

Starvation Creek

T12N R17W. Empties into the Clark Fork River 2 miles s. of Clinton. A logging outfit run by a man whose name was thought to have been Long was situated in the gulch along the creek banks around 1893-1895.
Logging operations not being successful, the discour-aged and ofttimes hungry crew gave the creek its picturesque name. (Forest Swartz)

Previous Name: Thomson Gulch. Robert Thomson came from Scotland around 1900 and settled in this gulch. Ida, his Canadian born wife, came from Chicago in 1910. (A. B. Cook)

Stinking Water Creek
T13N R14W. A s. branch of Elk Creek in extreme s.e. Missoula Co. There are sulfur deposits in the water which produce an offensive odor and, hence, the derogatory name. (Gordon Erickson)

Stoner Lake
T20N R17W. Nearly 4½ miles n. of Lindbergh Lake in n. Missoula Co. Named after a man called Stoner who homesteaded somewhere near the lake. Details are lacking. (Lester Perro)

Stony Creek
T15N R22W. Flows s.s.w. to its confluence with Ninemile Creek app. 1½ miles w. of Nine Mile Ranger Station. So named because it has a bed of stone along the entire course of its drainage. (Patrick McElligott)

Stuart Peak
T14N R18W. Immediately to the s. of the "Rattlesnake lakes" n.n.e. of Missoula. (See Sheridan Lake) Named by Dean Arthur L. Stone (See Mount Dean Stone)
in honor of Granville Stuart, an early day explorer and author of *Forty Years on the Frontier*, as seen in the *Journals of Granville Stuart, Gold Miner, Merchant, Trader, Rancher, and Politician*. Previous Name: Murphy Peak. Named after the first white man that was known to have scaled the peak and estimated its elevation. Murphy, who attained the summit around the turn of the twentieth century, is remembered as the first man in the country with an altimeter. It is believed that he was affiliated with Montana State University. (Forrest H. Poe)

Sudden Lake

T16N R18W. A high, diminutive headwater lake of the South Fork (Jocko River). This lake is virtually hidden in the mountainous terrain. The name was undoubtedly suggested because a person approaching this body of water would be aware of its presence "all of a sudden" upon nearly reaching the lake shore. (Forrest H. Poe)

Summit Lake

T19N R16W. 5 miles e. of Lindbergh Lake and near the summit of the Clearwater and Swan River drainages. The name, given by the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific R.R. survey party, is a natural result of the geographic location. (W. K. Samsel)

Sunday Mountain

T18N R15W. App. 10 miles n.n.e. of Seeley Lake Ran-
ger Station near the Missoula-Powell Co. border.
From a distant vantage point, the triangular peak resembles a church gable, suggestive of the name.
(John Stark)

Sunflower Mountain

T14N R16W. 12 miles n.e. of Bonner. Contrary to the supposed derivation, this mountain did not receive its name from the common sunflower (Helianthus annuus). The name is taken from balsam roots, brilliant yellow in color, which formerly grew profusely on the slopes of this mountain. In Partoll's description: "Another important plant food of the Selish was the silken sunflower, not the Helianthus but the Balsam Orrhize, the perennial. The entire plant was of food value. In spring the roots were dug and dried for future use. They were apparently cooked in ways similar to the kamas and moss. The inner stalk was also prepared in spring as an article of food, and the seeds were gathered in the fall. The seeds were highly prized as a flavoring for soups." (Jack Whittaker; Partoll, The Selish: Spartans of the West.)

Sunset Crags

T18N R18W. In the Mission Range wilderness area about 1 mile from the Missoula-Lake Co. border. So named because the crags are visible for many miles at sunrise and sunset. The nearly perpendicular cliffs
reflect the angular rays of the sun at these periods of the day. (John Stark)

Proposed Name: Wild Agnes. This humorous appellation was suggested by "Cap" Eli Laird (See Angel's Bathing Pool), but was rejected by the Forest Service before its usage had been established. (John Stark)

Sunset Hill

T14N R14W. App. 5 miles s. of Clearwater Junction in extreme e. Missoula Co. The hill, elevated with respect to the neighboring landscape, is the last place to receive the rays of the sun at sunset and, conversely, the first at sunrise. Furthermore, the w. side of the hill is free of timber, thus offering unhampered visibility of the rising and setting sun. (Gordon Erickson)

Sunset Lake

T18N R17W. Small headwater lake of the Middle Fork (Jocko River) app. 4½ miles s.e. of Sunset Crags. (See Sunset Crags)

Sunset Peak

T18N R17W. On the divide between the Swan and Clearwater River drainage systems. (See Sunset Crags)

Swan River

T21N R17W. Originates at the n. end of Lindbergh Lake and flows n. into Swan Lake in Lake Co. In past years, swans were a common sight in this country during migratory season, particularly in and around Swan
Lake. The river received its name from the lake into which it flows in 1913. (Mrs. Hilda Johnson, John Stark, Russell Conkling)

Previous Name: Sweat House River. The Flathead (or Salish) Indians built numerous sweat houses along this river before and during the period of early white settlement. These sweat houses were round hovels with skins on the top and rocks underneath built on the order of the Finnish bath house. The steam was produced by throwing cold water on the bed of hot rocks. Sweat House River was changed to Swan River because the name was thought to be undignified. (Russell Conkling)

Sweat House River (See Swan River)

TV Mountain

Tl5N R19W. App. 9 miles n. of Missoula. Named on or shortly before July 1, 1954, the completion date for the erection of KGVO's television transmitting tower on this mountain. (A. J. Mosby)

Tamarack Gulch

Tl1N R17W. Joins with Rock Creek about 3 ½ miles s. of Bonita Ranger Station. An abundance of tamaracks in this gulch are in picturesque contrast with the evergreen trees in the late fall. (See TAMARACK in Glossary)

Tank Creek

Tl4N R22W. Small tributary entering the Clark Fork
River approx. 3 miles E. of Lothrop. Probably so designated because this stream runs through a Forest Service pasture in which several water tanks have been installed for the horses and mules. (Dirk Sol)

Tepee Creek
T12N R23W. N. branch of Howard Creek near the Missoula-Mineral Co. border. The informant saw an old set of tepee poles along the banks of this creek in 1938. Apparently, this was a camp site for Indian hunting parties. (Ross Middlemist)

Terrace Lakes
T20N R15W. On upper end of Big Salmon Creek drainage in extreme N.E. Missoula Co. A descriptive name resulting from various terraces or levels of land extending from the adjacent mountain ridge to the lake. (Mrs. R. W. Wilhelm)

Tevis Creek
T12N R21W. S. tributary of Lolo Creek approx. 8 miles W. of Lolo. Named after a family of Tevises who homesteaded the creek in the early 1870's. (Ted Williams)

Tote Road Lake
T16N R14W. At the head of a small stream flowing E. into Powell Co. The lake derives its name from the adjacent road. Lumber trucks haul (or "tote") logs and camp supplies over this road, hence the name. (Dr. Warren E. Thieme)

Traveler's Rest Creek (See Lolo Creek)
Triangle Peak

T15N R18W. On the divide separating the Rattlesnake Creek drainage from that of the Jocko River. The peak resembles a triangular pyramid when seen from a distance. (Forrest H. Poe)

Tucker Gulch

T13N R23W. Enters Petty Creek 5 miles s. of Lothrop. Received name from the father of Leland Tucker, a resident of Missoula Co. The Tuckers lived in the gulch for a short time in the early 1900's. (W. W. Schmitz)

Tupper's Lake

T16N R15W. Located app. midway in a north-south line between Placid Lake and Seeley Lake. This lake and a lake of the same name in New York refer to a family whose American ancestry may be traced to 1635. One of this line of descendants, Gordun Tupper, lived near Ovando (Powell Co.) for many years, dying in 1961 at the age of 93. The informant, a distant relation of the deceased, believes that Tupper once trapped in the vicinity of the lake. (Harold S. Tupper)

Turah

T12N R18W. N.P.R.R. station 4 miles s.e. of Bonner which was established in 1883. Named for Keturah, daughter of N. C. Thrall, Assistant Vice President of the N.P.R.R. in the late 1800's. Keturah Thrall was
the god-daughter of General Adna Anderson, Chief Engineer of the N.P.R.R. The station was abandoned in 1943. (Jno. Mikelson, St. Paul, N.P.R.R.)

Previous Historic Background: Before the advent of the railroad, this site was a stage station on the Old Mullan Road owned by a man named Stringer. (Mrs. Nettle)

Turquoise Lake

T19N R18W. Forming the uppermost headwaters of Glacier Creek in the Mission Range wilderness area. Named because of glacial deposits in the water which give it a deep blue appearance. (Lester Perro, Peter Rovero, Robert Van Gieson, R. W. Wilhelm)

Twin Creeks

T17N R24W. Entering Ninemile Creek app. 2 miles downstream from the abandoned site of Martina. Twin Creeks are what the name implies. Two small streams flow in a parallel course a short distance apart to their juncture with Ninemile Creek. (Albert Partoll, Patrick McElligott)

Twin Lakes

T15N R18W. The two northernmost of the four Farmer's Lakes (See Farmer's Lakes) so named because of their mutual proximity and lack of distinguishing features. (Frank Head, Ralph Cronin)

Uhler Creek

T18N R16W. Joins the Clearwater River directly
below Lake Alva. Mr. Uhler, a Forest Service lumberman, was a member of Dr. Woodword's timber survey of 1907. (W. K. Samsel)

Union Creek

T13N R16W. Heads in a w. course to its confluence with the Blackfoot River 5 miles downstream from Potomac. Supposedly named by Frank Vogel who surveyed this area in the period 1900-1910. (Jack Whittaker)

Previous Name: Camas Creek. The entire drainage was originally called Camas Creek (See Camas Creek), but the name was changed after the above mentioned survey. Many older residents still refer to the creek by this previous name. (Jack Whittaker, Russell F. Winter)

University Peak (See Mount Sentinel)

Upper Jocko Lake

T17N R17W. Describing its relative position on the Jocko River drainage with respect to Lower Jocko Lake. (See Jocko River)

Previous Indian Name: Ni-see-soo-tae. The Salish word translated is "Black Spotty," but the inference is unknown. (Will Cave, "This Cave Article Tells of Our Names," Missoulian, June 4, 1922.)

Verdy Gulch

T12N R17W. S. extension of the Clark Fork River basin a short distance w. of Clinton. The word is
probably a corruption of the Spanish verde which, translated, means "green." The name was obviously bestowed because of the verdurous vegetation in the gulch.

Vista Gulch

T12N R18W. A fork of Crystal Creek app. 6 1/2 miles w.n.w. of Clinton. Obviously named for the view through the gulch. (See VISTA in Glossary)

Wagon Mountain

T10N R18W. App. 1 1/2 miles n. of Lolo Pass in extreme s.w. Missoula Co. The name dates back to an early settler who, in journeying through this vicinity, had considerable difficulty pulling his wagon through the thick underbrush skirting the sides of a narrow trail. He narrowed his wagon by cutting off part of the axle and pushing the wheels closer together. He finally gave up, however, and left his wagon on the mountain whose name bears witness to the unfortunate incident. (Ross Middlemist)

Wallace (See Clinton)

Wallace Creek

T12N R17W. Empties into the Clark Fork River from the e. near Clinton. Named for Lieutenant Wallace who captured some warring Blackfeet Indians there in 1878. (L. Custer Keim)

Previous Name: Camas Trail Creek. This name existed as late as 1886, the year in which water rights were
taken out on this stream. At that time this name was in concurrent usage with the name which later succeeded it, Wallace Creek. (Forest Swartz)

Washoe Creek

T13N R15W. Runs from its source in the Garnet Range to the juncture with Union Creek 2 miles e. of Potomac. Possibly named by Adam Rhinehart who took $150,000 in gold from a placer mine on this creek. "Washoe" is a typical gold rush name transferred from the original Washoe City, Nevada. The discovery of the Comstock Lode in Nevada was sending waves of gold seekers from California to the Washoe Valley. Washoe City, established during the winter of 1860-1861, had achieved a population of 2500 by 1864. (Henry F. Hayes; Wolle, The Bonanza Trail, p. 325.)

Westerman Creek

T12N R21W. Flows into Lolo Creek from the n. about 6 miles w. of Lolo. Named after Henry Westerman who settled on the creek some time in the 1890's. His son, also deceased, was William Westerman. (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Ross Middlemist, Missoula burial records)

West Fork (Clearwater River)

T18N R16W. Major branch of the Clearwater River originating in the w. (See Clearwater River)

West Fork (Cramer Creek)

T12N R16W. The smaller of the forks of Cramer
Creeke (See Cramer Creek)
Concurrent Name: Morrison Creek. Hadley Morrison logged this country and had a sawmill on this creek around 1900. This is the commonly accepted name among local residents. (A. B. Cook)

West Fork (Gold Creek)
T14N R17W. One of the two major upper branches of Gold Creek. (See Gold Creek)

West Fork (Petty Creek)
T13N R23W. Major tributary of Petty Creek from the w. (See Petty Creek)

West Fork (Schwartz Creek)
T11N R17W. Minor tributary of Schwartz Creek from the w. (See Schwartz Creek)

West Fork Butte
T11N R22W. 2 1/2 miles s.s.e. of Lolo Ranger Station. (See West Fork Butte Creek)

West Fork Butte Creek
T12N R21W. Rises in the s.w. and joins with the South Fork (Lolo Creek). The "west fork" refers to the West Fork of Lolo Creek. The word "butte" is associated with a butte (See West Fork Butte) which is app. 1 1/2 miles w. of the upper end of the stream. (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Ted Williams, Frank Doolittle)

West Fork Point
T18N R16W. Bordering West Fork (Clearwater River) on the s. (See West Fork of Clearwater River)
West Twin Creek

T13N R17W. N. tributary which drains into the Blackfoot River app. 8 miles n.e. of Milltown. The name is derived from description and geographical location. This is one of two creeks which are only about 30 rods apart where they empty into the Blackfoot River. They are approximately the same width, depth, and length, hence the name. The "west" designates the geographical location of this creek with respect to East Twin Creek. (Arthur L. Wisherd)

Whiskey Creek

T12N R21W. N. tributary of Lolo Creek. Named after Joe Brown, a bootlegger, who dumped a load of whiskey near the creek when federal agents were pursuing him. (Ed Williams)

Whiskey Gulch

T14N R21W. Diminutive stream emptying into the Clark Fork River 1½ miles s.w. of Frenchtown. W. C. Tetrault made whiskey ("moonshine") in the gulch during the prohibition period in the 1930's. He hauled the mash and sugar by boat down the Clark Fork River at night and returned with the distilled whiskey until he was caught one morning by federal agents while transporting two ten-gallon kegs. Tetrault still lives near Frenchtown. (Edmond Hamel)

Wild Horse Mountain

T14N R22W. App. 7 miles s.w. of Frenchtown. A
large band of wild horses formerly roamed the area traversed by Deep Creek and O'Brien Creek. Near O'Brien Creek, a horse corral was erected. Over a course of years, all of these wild mustangs were captured. (W. W. Schmitz, Clau D. Johnson)

Willow Creek
T16N R20W. An upper fork of Mill Creek which has its confluence with the Clark Fork River near Frenchtown. Willows are prevalent along the banks of the creek, accounting for the name. (Edmond Hamel)

Windfall Creek
T20N R17W. Flows n.e. into Glacier Creek about 3 miles from the mouth of the latter stream. There probably are more windfalls along this creek than anywhere in the country, partly as a result of a tornado-like wind in the late 1940's. This situation presents difficulties to the foot traveler. (Peter Rovere, John Stark)

Wisherd Creek
T13N R17W. N. tributary of the Blackfoot River app. 5 miles e.n.e. of Bonner. Named for Arthur L. Wisherd, the informant, who settled near the mouth of the creek in 1916 and still resides at that site. This name appeared on maps shortly after Wisherd's settlement so it may be assumed that it was a Forest Service adoption. (Arthur L. Wisherd)

Woodman Creek
T12N R21W. Joins Lolo Creek app. 8 miles e. of Lolo Ranger Station. Named for an old time resident and sheriff of the region, the father of "Skookum" Bill Woodman (See Skookum Butte). On September 11, 1805, the Lewis and Clark journals record: "...proceeded on up the creek [Lolo], passed a Fork on the right [Woodman Creek] on which I saw near an old Indian encampment a Swet house covered with earth."

(Ross Middlemiston Thwaites, Original Journals of Lewis and Clark, vol. III, p. 62.)

Woodville Gulch

T12N R17W. Forks left from Wallace Creek app. 2 miles e. of Clinton. Named for an old Frenchman, John Woods, who lived in the gulch around the turn of the twentieth century. (Mrs. Nettle)

Worden Creek

T12N R20W. Joins the Bitterroot River 2 miles downstream from Lolo. Named after Tyler Worden, father of Donovan Worden, who was one of the first homesteaders in this area s. of Missoula. Tyler took over the former Davis homestead (See Davis Creek). (Mrs. Edna Tucker, Ted Williams)

Worden Lake

T15N R18W. Headwater lake of Rattlesnake Creek n. of Missoula. The name was bestowed in 1908-1912 by the Forest Service in honor of Francis L. Worden. This is one of the lakes in the Montana Power Rattlesnake Dam project which supplies Missoula residents...
with water and electric power. The Forest Service name is appropriate, as "in 1871 or 1872 Frank L. Worden, co-founder of the city, began construction of a water works. Water was diverted from Rattlesnake Creek about 2½ miles north of the city, then carried in a covered flume about one foot square to a small covered reservoir on Reservoir Hill at a point on the ridge half way from the foot of the hill to the present reservoir."

(Cronin, "Missoula's Water Supply Tops All Other Cities in Montana," Missoulian, October 5, 1952.)

The timber was cleared in 1922 around the lake and the dam was constructed in 1923. Designated as #7 by Montana Power Company. (See Sheridan Lake)

(Ralph Cronin)

Wordensville (See Missoula)

Wrangle Creek

T15N R18W. Upper tributary of Rattlesnake Creek having its source in Sander's Lake. The word "wrangle" was used extensively in the early western United States to refer to the rounding up of livestock. In the area traversed by this creek, logging with the use of horses was carried on in the early 1900's. The name was probably derived from the expression of "wrangling the horses up the creek" in order to haul out the timber. (See WRANGLE in Glossary) (Ralph Cronin)
CHAPTER II

CLASSES OF MISSOULA COUNTY PLACE NAMES

The preceding dictionary of names claims especially a local historical interest, mainly of course as a reference work. Quite obviously, no one is expected to read Chapter I from beginning to end, no more than he would read a dictionary of the English language from cover to cover. The listing of place names with their approximate locations and origins is valuable for its presentation of fragmentary information in a fabricated historical sketch of Missoula County. Yet that value is not the only justification for such an extensive project. Here in Chapter II, I have classified the place names according to their origins. And through this grouping, I have uncovered general trends in the name giving in the county. The detailed study of these trends has, in turn, served as a basis for authoritative, conclusive statements on the toponymy of Missoula County.

I have divided name origins into five categories as suggested by Robert L. Ramsey of the University of Missouri, each of which has been subdivided according to the special features of geographic nomenclature in this locality.

1. Borrowed Names 87 or 14%
2. Historical Names 114 or 18%
3. Personal Names 205 or 33%

155
Ij-o Environmental Names  195  or  31%
5. Subjective Names    25  or  4%

The above percentages are figured on the basis of the 626 names in the classification rather than the actual 438 names in the dictionary. Such names as Angel's Bathing Pool, listed under both "Environmental Names" and "Subjective Names," account for the slight adjustment in the calculation of the percentages. The names which were designated "Unsolved" after repeated unsuccessful inquiry are listed at the end of this chapter. These 31 names comprise only 7% of the total number.

I. Borrowed Names (87)

A. From other states (3)
   Missouri: St. Louis Creek (St. Louis)
   Nevada: Washoe Creek (Washoe City)
   Virginia: Potomac (Potomac River)

B. Local transfers (84)
   1. From towns within Montana (2)
      Blossberg (presently Clinton): former mining settlement near Butte
      Riverside (presently Milltown): former mining settlement near Butte
   2. From natural features (66)
      Bitterroot River: Bitterroot Range
      Blanchard Creek: Blanchard Flat: Blanchard Lake
      Boles Creek: Boles Point
      Boulder Lake: Boulder Point
Clearwater River: Clearwater Lake: Clearwater Junction
Cooney Creek: Cooney Peak
Cottonwood Creek: Cottonwood Lakes
Cramer Creek: Cramer Gulch
Davis Creek: Davis Point
Doctor Lake: Doctor Creek
Edith Creek: Edith Peak: Little Edith Peak
Elbow Lake: Elbow Point
Frenchtown: Frenchtown Valley
Garnet: Garnet Range
Glacier Lake: Glacier Creek: Glacier Peak: Glacier Sloughs
Gold Creek: Gold Lake
Graves Creek: Graves Creek Range
Gray Wolf Lake: Gray Wolf Crags: Gray Wolf Creek
Hemlock Peak: Hemlock Creek
Holland Creek: Holland Lake
Jocko Lake: Lower Jocko Lake: Upper Jocko Lake
Kamas Peak: Camas Creek: Camas Prairie
Lake Inez: Inez Creek
Lindbergh Lake: Lindy Peak
Little Blue Creek: Little Blue Point
Lolo Creek: Lolo (town): Lolo Hot Springs: Lolo Pass: Lolo Peak: Lolo Ranger Station
Lolo Hot Springs: Springs Point
Marion Creek: Little Marion Creek
Marshall Creek: Marshall Lake: Marshall Point
Miller Creek: Miller Peak
Mormon Creek: Mormon Peak
Morrell Creek: Morrell Flats
Mountaineer Peak: Mountaineer Lake
Ninemile Creek: Nine Mile Divide; Nine Mile Ranger Station; Nine Mile (railroad siding)
Pattee Canyon: Pattee Creek: Pattee Mountain
Pierce Creek: Pierce Lake
Placid Lake: Placid Creek
Red Butte: Red Butte Creek
Richmond Creek: Richmond Peak: Little Richmond Peak
Sappho Lake: Sappho Creek
Seeley Lake: Seeley Creek: Seeley Lake Ranger Station
Smith Creek: Smith Flats
Sunset Crags: Sunset Lake: Sunset Peak
West Fork Butte: West Fork Butte Creek
West Fork (Clearwater River): West Fork Point

3. From cities, towns, post offices, abandoned sites, railroad sidings, etc. (13)
Bonita: Bonita Ranger Station
Bonner: Bonner Mountain
Carlton: Carlton Creek: Carlton Lake
Frenchtown: Frenchtown Valley
Iris: Iris Point
McClain: McClain Creek
Martina: Martina Creek
Missoula: Missoula County: Missoula River: Missoula Valley
Schley: Schley Creek
Almost without exception, borrowed names in this study have been explained by another place name. Practically all of these borrowed names are local transfers from natural features. The most common such transfer is that which occurs from a body of water, such as a lake, river, or stream, to a neighboring land formation. Occasionally, this process is reversed, as exemplified in the naming of Red Butte Creek from Red Butte. Of course frequently it has been impossible to determine if and in what direction the transfer took place. After all, how could it be shown conclusively that Smith Creek received its name from Smith Flats or vice versa? It is even necessary to consider the possibility that no transfer has ever taken place. Both Smith Creek and Smith Flats could have received their names simultaneously with no influence of one upon the other.

Where the origin of a place name can undoubtedly refer only to one of the natural features, as with Graves Creek and Graves Creek Range, no such problem exists.

Local transfer from natural features occasionally results in improper and somewhat ludicrous appellations.
Placid Creek, which has derived its name from Placid Lake, is certainly anything but a placid stream. As for local transfers within Montana, Blossberg and Riverside apparently were suggested by towns of the same name in the mining area around Butte, transfers which were not made deliberately, however, as the names in Missoula County were promptly changed because of postal service confusion. Names from other states are evident in only three place names. St. Louis Creek might have been a glorification of Louis Barrette, but it is reasonable to assume that the name was also inspired by some association with St. Louis, Missouri. Washoe Creek is a reflection of the late nineteenth century gold rush in western Montana which was preceded and overshadowed by the Nevada gold rush and one of its "boom towns" Washoe City. Mining is the one industry evident in the geographical nomenclature, though others are reflected indirectly, as for example in surnames of men involved in lumbering.

Names have been transferred locally from artificial to natural features on a limited scale. As with Carlton, a discontinued post office, the artificial feature has disappeared, but the natural features, Carlton Creek and Carlton Lake, retain the name in common usage.

II. Historical Names (114)

A. Indian (31)

Blackfoot River
Camas Creek, Kamas Peak, Camas Trail Creek (Wallace Creek)

Chi-chi-lan (Lindbergh Lake)
Chi-quil-quil-kine (Bitterroot Range)
Chil-soo-soo-wae (Lower Jocko Lake)
Chill-mae (Grass Valley)
Cokalihishkit (Blackfoot River)
Es-mock or Eshmock (Mount Sentinel)
Im-i-sul-e-tiku (Missoula)
In-mae-soc-la (Missoula)
In-may-soc-le-tuque (Missoula)
In-schu-te-schu (Bitterroot River)
Inalkie (Rattlesnake Creek)
Kul-koo-lau (Six Mile Creek)
Lolo, Lolo Creek, Lolo Hot Springs, Lolo Pass, Lolo Ranger Station
Na-se-latkhm (Butler and LaValle Creeks)
Ni-see-soo-tae (Upper Jocko Lake)
Si-nim-koo (Mount Jumbo)
Sin-pocp-thlem (Hellgate Canyon)
Skioctah or Skah-o-tay (Ninemile Creek and Squaw Peak)
Socugh-tip-kine (Missoula Valley)
Spel-lum Saulku (Bitterroot River)
Sweat House River (Swan River)
Tzi-t-k (Beavertail Hill)
Tum-sum-lech (Lolo Creek)

B. Discovery and Early Exploration

Arrowstone River (Clark Fork River)
Boyles Springs (Lolo Hot Springs)

Clark Fork River (also Clarke, Clark's, and Clark's Fork)

Course de Femmes (Finley Creek)

Finley Creek (2)

Flathead River (Clark Fork River)

Grass Valley

Jaco's Fork (Jocko River)

Le Louis (Lolo Creek and Lolo Pass)

La Ronde de la Porte de l'Enfer (Hellgate Canyon)

McLeod Peak

Missoula, Missoula County, Missoula Valley

Missoula River (Clark Fork River)

Observatory Creek (Rattlesnake Creek)

Petite Creek (Petty Creek)

Porte de l'Enfer (Hellgate Canyon)

Rattlesnake Creek

Racine Amer (Bitterroot River)

Stuart Peak

Traveler's Rest Creek (Lolo Creek)

C. Indian-white conflicts and treaties (6)

Chief Joseph Gulch

Council Grove

Fort Fizzle

Howard Creek

Post

Wallace Creek

D. Advent of Catholicism (4)
Devil's Gate (Hellgate Canyon)
Mellady (Schilling)
St. Ignatius River (Clark Fork River)
St. Mary's River (Bitterroot River)

E. Gold discovery and mining era (10)
Eustache Creek
Garnet, Garnet Range
Josephine Creek
Kennedy Creek
Martina, Martina Creek
Old Town
St. Louis Creek
Washoe Creek

F. Earliest white settlement (20)
Butler Creek
Frenchtown
Grant Creek
Houle Creek
LaValle Creek
Marion Creek
Mill Creek
Miller Creek, Miller Peak
Missoula Mills
O'Brien Creek
O'Keefe Canyon
One-Horse Creek
Pattee Canyon, Pattee Creek, and Pattee Mountain
Worden Creek, Worden Lake, Wordensville

G. Legendary tales and events of local interest (11)
Corlacken Defile (O'Keefe's Canyon)
Deadman Gulch
Graves Creek, Graves Creek Range
Herrick Run
Lindbergh Lake, Lindy Peak
Mormon Creek, Mormon Peak
Sheep Flats
Wagon Mountain

H. War Periods (4)
Revolutionary War: Stark, Stark Creek
Spanish-American War: Schley, Schley Creek

I. Prohibition (2)
Whiskey Creek, Whiskey Gulch

J. Miscellaneous (3)
Beavertail Hill
Garden Creek
Old Mullan Road

The most colorful array of place names in Missoula County were those bestowed by the original residents, the Flathead or Salish Indian tribe of western Montana. Unfortunately, few of those names remain in their original form to remind us of the culture that was overshadowed by the extensive white settlement in the latter decades of the nineteenth century.
Of this largest group of historical names, only two remain in common usage. The first of these, camas, is a Salish word which has since become an Americanism. The second of these surviving Indian words has been handed down from 1864 in its corrupted form, Missoula. The present word, which is applied to the county, county seat, and surrounding valley, has been extracted from one of three suggested Salish words: Im-i-sul-e-tiku ("place of chilly surprise or ill omen by the water"), In-mae-soo-la ("Sparkling River"), or In-may-soo-let-que ("Quaking River"). The changing of the Indian name, whichever of the three it may have been, to the word "Missoula" is undoubtedly one of the few instances where a word has not lost through corruption its original significance and melodic appeal.

Lewis and Clark ushered in Missoula County's period of discovery and early exploration, under which is included the second largest group of historical names. In 1805-1806, the journals of these two explorers take into account the naming of the Clark's River, Traveler's Rest Creek, and Boyle's Springs. In the succeeding forty years, Alexander Ross, David Thompson, John Work, and Major John Owen contributed to the early nomenclature of this area. Many of these names, particularly the descriptive appellations left by French traders and trappers, have brought before our eyes vivid scenes from the past. These vary from the humorous episode which resulted in Course de Femmes to the blood chilling background of La Ronde de la Porte de l'Enfer. Two
of western Montana's famous early citizens, Angus McLeod and Granville Stuart, were immortalized in the names of prominent mountain peaks north of the city of Missoula.

Before Missoula County could be opened for extensive, permanent white settlement, all conflicts between the Indian tribes had to be resolved. The treaty marking the end of inter-tribal warfare between the Flathead and Blackfeet was signed on July 16, 1855, and was memorialized in Council Grove, an historic landmark no longer existent. The most memorable of Indian "invasions," that of Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce who came down Lolo Creek in the summer of 1877, is recalled in Chief Joseph Gulch, Howard Creek, Post, and Fort Fizzle.

With the arrival of Father Pierre-Jean de Smet, S. J. and the establishment of St. Mary's Mission in the Bitterroot Valley in 1841, Catholicism was firmly and permanently established as the leading religious influence over Indians and whites alike. This influence is presently evident in only four place names; and in all but one case, DeSmet, these names have been replaced by more popular secular appellations.

With the discovery of gold in Gold Creek (Mineral County) in the 1850's, mining camps flourished. One of these was Garnet, now a ghost town located just within the eastern borders of Missoula County. Another gold strike in this area was at Washoe Creek, out of which one man was rumored to have extracted $150,000. A later gold discovery on
Ninemile Creek in the early 1890's is permanently recorded in several of the Ninemile tributaries, namely Eustache Creek, Martina Creek, and St. Louis Creek. Old Town and Martina were mining camps whose few remaining buildings bear witness to the past.

The first permanent white settlers came to the Hellgate region in the 1850's. It is not surprising to note that the first signs of white migration into this country were concurrent with or shortly after the cessation of warfare between the Blackfeet and Flathead Indian tribes in 1855.

Captain Richard Grant, who is believed to have arrived in the mid 1850's, was probably the first white man to establish permanent residence in what is now Missoula County. Grant's rustic homestead near the Clark Fork River was erected two or three years previous to the ranch established by Cornelius C. "Baron" O'Keefe twelve miles north of the former site of Hellgate. The list of pioneer homesteaders in the 1860's and 1870's includes many men who are remembered in the names of those creeks alongside whose banks they settled, namely Joseph Houle, Louis Lavallie, Joseph Marion, Ezra Miller, David O'Brien, and Tyler Worden.

The population of Frenchtown today is numbered in the hundreds while Missoula residents refer to the population of their city in the tens of thousands. In the period 1860-1875, the roles of these two population centers were reversed. As a group, the earliest settlers in the Clark Fork River
valley were French-Canadians who began their journeys west from Montreal and Quebec in the late 1850's. For fifteen years, Frenchtown was larger than Missoula and, consequently, the hub of trade and travel.

Modern Missoula was born in a trading center named Hellgate or Hell Gate, a translation of the French Porte de l'Enfer. Hellgate was established in the autumn of 1860 by C. P. Higgins and Frank L. Worden. The 1864 Montana territorial legislature approved the name "Wordensville" for the town erected four miles east of Hellgate on the present Missoula townsite. That name was soon dropped, however, at the insistence of Worden himself and was changed to Missoula Mills because of the flour and saw mills constructed by Worden and Company in the winter of 1864-1865. The "Mills" was dropped by common consent in 1870.

A small group of Missoula County names brings to mind widely varying, colorful legendary tales and events of local interest. Included in these are stories of a dead "Russian," a legendary Indian chief, a multi-millionaire, a world famous aviator, an adventurous Mormon escapade, sheep ranchers from Washington, and an anonymous, disgruntled, early day traveler.

Pioneers around the turn of the century were probably far too concerned with the struggle for everyday existence to hear or have any great concern for the events of the Spanish-American War. This relative indifference is reflected in the small part that wars have played in the naming of
places in this county. It is even more significant that both military names, Stark and Schley, were not local contributions but were adopted by officials of the Milwaukee Pacific and Northern Pacific Railroads respectively.

The prohibition era of the 1920's is the last distinct period marked in Missoula County nomenclature. Both Whiskey Creek and Whiskey Gulch are reminiscent of bootleggers who were pursued and, in one instance, caught by federal agents. No significant additions or changes have been experienced in the toponymy of this area in the past thirty years, with the possible exception of TV Mountain, which marks another milepost in mid-twentieth century scientific advances.

III. Personal Names (205)

A. National figures (9)

Clark, Captain William (C. Fork River superceding Clarke, Clark's, and Clark's Fork)

Lindbergh, Colonel Charles A. (L. Lake and Lindy Peak)

McKinley, President William (M. Lake)

Roosevelt, President Theodore (R. Lake)

Schley, Rear Admiral (Schley and S. Creek)

Stark, General ? (Stark and S. Creek)

B. State figures (8)

Chief Joseph (C. J. Gulch)

De Smet, Father Pierre-Jean, S. J. (DeSmet)

Donlan, Edward (Donlan)
Howard, General O. O. (H. Creek)
Marion, Joseph E. (M. Creek and Little M. Creek)
Stuart, Granville (S. Peak)
Wallace, Lieutenant (W. Creek)

C. Local figures (surnames only) (147)

1. Trappers, settlers, and landowners (90)
   Albert, Alexander (A. Creek and A. Mountain);
   Allen, Silas (A. Creek); Anderson, Robert (A. Gulch);
   Archibald, Hewey (A. Creek); Ashby, R. S. (A. Creek).
   Babcock, William (B. Lake); Beeskove, William (B. Creek);
   Big Knife, Alexander (B. K. Creek); Blanchard, ? (B. Creek, B. Lake, and B. Flat);
   Boles, Jim (B. Creek and B. Point); Boyd, William (B. Hill);
   Burdette, Earl (B. Creek); Butler, Jack (B. Creek);
   Camp, S. A. (C. Creek); Carleton, Mrs. Robert (Carlton, C. Creek, and C. Lake);
   Clarke, Deloss W. (Clark Creek); Betters, Austin (Better's Station).
   Davis, Seth (D. Creek and D. Point); Davis, Harry L. (D. Creek);
   Donovan, Patrick (D. Creek); Finley, Jacques (F. Creek); Finley, Patrick (F. Creek);
   Fraser, John (F. Creek); Free, Ira (F. Creek)
   Grant, Captain Richard (G. Creek); Greenough, Tom (G. Creek);
   Hamilton W. R. (H. Lake); Hayes, Edward (H. Creek);
   Henry, Arthur (Mount H.); Hig-
gins, Christopher P. (H. Lake); Holland, Ben (H. Creek and H. Lake); Hollensteiner, August (H. Gulch); Houle, Joseph (H. Creek). Johnson, ? (J. Gulch); Kendall, ? (K. Creek); Kraft, ? (K. Creek); Latimer, ? (L. Gulch); Lavallie, Louis (LaValle Creek); Leeper, ? (L. Gulch)
McCormick, ? (M. Creek); McLeod, Angus (M. Peak); McQuarrie, Daniel (McQuarrie); Madison, ? (M. Gulch); Marshall, ? (M. Creek, M. Lake, and M. Point); Martin, James (M. Creek); Martin, Louis (M. Gulch); Moe, Peter (M. Gulch).
O'Brien, David (O. Creek); O'Keefe, Cornelius C. "Baron" (O. Canyon); Parshall, Seth (P. Gulch); Pattee, David (P. Canyon, P. Creek, and P. Mountain); Pilcher, Jeff (P. Creek); Piltz, William (Piltzville); Powell, Charles (P. Creek).
Rennic, Mrs. ? (R. Creek); Ricard, James (R. Gulch); Ramon, ? (R. Creek); Swartz, Charles (Schwartz Creek); Seeley, Jasper B. (S. Creek, S. Lake, and S. Lake Ranger Station); Sheldon, Darwin and Alvina (S. Creek); Siegal, John (S. Pass); Sleeman, Richard (S. Creek); Smith, ? (S. Creek and S. Flats); Thomson, Robert (T. Gulch); Stoner, ? (S. Lake); Tevis family (T. Creek); Tucker, Leland (T. Gulch); Tupper, Gordon (T. Lake).
Westerman, William (W. Creek); Wisherd, Arthur L.
(W. Creek); Woodman, ? (W. Creek); Woods, John (Woodville Gulch); Worden, Frank (Wordensville); Worden, Tyler (W. Creek and W. Lake).

2. Men of trades and occupations (51)
   a. County employees (3)
      Richmond, "Sandhill Joe" (R. Creek, Little R. Peak, and R. Peak).
   b. Forest Service employees (10)
      Benedict, ? (B. Creek)
      Findell, Ranger Elmer (F. Creek)
      Franklin, ? (F. Ranger Station)
      Holloman, William W. (H. Creek)
      Morrell, Fred (M. Creek and M. Flats)
      Rice, John (R. Creek)
      Shaw, Ezra (S. Mountain)
      Shoemaker, Theodore (S. Peak)
      Uhler, ? (U. Creek)
   c. Lumbermen (11)
      Catching, Joe (C. Creek)
      Drew, "Spike" (D. Creek)
      Herrick, Fred (H. Run)
      Kendall, ? (K. Creek)
      McCann, ? (M. Gulch)
      McMullan, Andy (M. Gulch)
      Mitouer, Abe (M. Creek)
      Murphy, Mose (M. Creek and M. Peak)
      Pierce, ? (P. Creek and P. Lake)
d. Merchants and businessmen (3)
   Lusk, Frank S. (Lusk)
   McNamara, Mike (McNamara)
   Schilling, ? (Schilling)

e. Millers (2)
   Miller, Ezra (M. Creek and M. Peak)

f. Montana Power employees (1)
   Sheridan, William (S. Lake)

g. Prospectors (5)
   Beech, William (Beecher Creek)
   Burdette, Earl (B. Creek)
   Butler, Jack (B. Creek)
   Chickaman, ? (C. Gulch)
   Oliver, ? (O. Creek)

h. Railroad men (10)
   Bonner, E. L. (Bonner and B. Mountain)
   Clinton, Henry (Clinton)
   Cott, ? (Colt Creek)
   Gilbert, Charles (G. Creek)
   Gilbert, F. W. (G. Creek)
   Huson, H. S. (Huson)
   Lothrop, L. R. (Lothrop)
   Nipp, Henry (Henry Nipp Gulch)
   Parshall, Seth (P. Gulch)

i. Stage station operator (3)
   Cramer, Martin (C. Creek and C. Gulch)
   Stringer, ? (S. Station)
j. Truck gardeners and fruit growers (3)
Pournier, Isaac (Fournie Creek)
McClain, T. A. (McClain and M. Creek)

3. Professional men (6)
a. Educators (3)
   Aberj, William (A. Mountain)
   Stone, Dean Arthur L. (Mount Dean S.)
   Spaulding, Dean T. C. (S. Ridge)
b. Ministry (2)
   Mellady, Father (Mellady)
   Smet, Father Pierre-Jean de (DeSmet)
c. Physicians (1)
   Koessler, Dr. Horace (K. Lake)

D. Christian and middle names (40)
1. Masculine (13)
   Bill Creek (W. W. Schmitz)
   Joe Gulch (?)
   Joe's Gulch (?)
   Dick Creek (Richard Wilkinson)
   Ed's Creek (Edward Schmitz)
   Ellis Creek (Ellis Lane)
   Eustache Creek (Eustache Barrette)
   Gus Creek (Gus Schmitz)
   John Creek (John Hokenson)
   John's Creek (John Black)
   Matt Mountain (Matthew Dunham)
   Mike Creek (Mike Anderson)
Pat's Creek (Patrick McElligott)

2. Feminine (17)
   Alma Lake (Alma Wooley)
   Bertha Creek (Bertha Hammond James)
   Edith Creek, E. Peak, and Little E. Peak (Edith McGregor)
   Emma Gulch (Emma Gilman)
   Florence Lake (Florence Hammond)
   Inez Creek and I. Lake (Inez Wooley)
   Iris and I. Point (?)
   Lake Dinah (Dinah Jackway)
   Lake Elsina (Elsina Jackway)
   Lee Creek (Lee Thompson)
   Mattie V. Creek (Mattie McElligott)
   Sally Creek (Sally Thompson)
   Turah (Keturah Thrall)

3. Nicknames (7)
   Auggie Creek (August Riggert)
   Dirty Ike Creek (Surname unknown)
   Frenchy Creek (Surname unknown)
   Jocko River, Lower J. Lake, and Upper J. Lake (Jacques Raphael Finley)
   Skookum Butte ("Skookum" Bill Woodman)

4. Combined with surnames (3)
   Charley Anderson Snag
   Charley Thomas Gulch
   Henry Nipp Gulch

E. Miscellaneous (1)
Personal names have played a dominant role in the nomenclature of Missoula County. Many of the original Salish words have been sacrificed to man's basic desire to acquire a degree of immortality through a geographical namesake. The practice of bestowing personal names may be criticized for its lack of imagination and vitality. For example, the Salish word, Chi-chi-lani, and its later translation, Elbow Lake, are more appropriate in a descriptive aspect than the present designation, Lindbergh Lake. The system of naming discussed above may be defended, on the other hand, for preserving the memory of those people, ranging from local settlers to national dignitaries, whose lives were intricately enveloped in or influential upon the early growth and development of our country.

National figures had little influence upon the process of name giving. Early Montana residents, isolated from the outside world, were forced to rely upon available physical and human resources. In consequence, a strong provincialism developed, promoting a spirit largely independent of national obligation. That impersonal, local-national relationship is evident in the circumstances surrounding the naming of Roosevelt Lake, Stark, and Schley. None of these origins can be traced to anything more than a desire to distinguish the place in the absence of a more appropriate designation.
Those state figures recorded on a Missoula County map represent such diverse historical developments as early exploration, Indian-white warfare, the advent of Catholicism, settlement, and the beginning of industry. These men known generally throughout Montana have not been recognized in the nomenclature because of their state-wide reputation, but, rather, for their accomplishments within the county. Most of the place names derived from local figures cannot be pinpointed to a specific date or year. The names were usually given informally, gaining common acceptance over a period of time.

Early explorers, trappers, traders, and settlers were faced with the necessity of identifying natural features for future designation. Many of the names originating from the need for identification were taken from men who lived in or became associated with a particular locality. Generally, a creek bore the name of a man who settled along its banks. Neighboring prominent land formations and artificial features frequently came under the classification of transferred names, as exemplified in Seeley Creek, Seeley Lake, and Seeley Lake Ranger Station.

In the past, confusion resulted when a name changed with the change of landowners or inhabitants, but in the last twenty-five or thirty years few names have been added or changed. Most of the existent designations have been established beyond a point of controversy. The over-all objective of this study has been the further stabilization
of Missoula County nomenclature.

The vast extent of timbered land in the county accounts for a large portion of the personal names listed under trades and occupations. The dominant lumber industry in Missoula County is reflected in the surnames of United States Forest Service employees and lumberman. Next in importance are place names honoring men employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Milwaukee Road. The gold rush era is evidenced in the names of three prospectors. Other lesser influences upon the nomenclature include county employees, merchants, businessmen, millers, stage station operators, fruit growers, truck gardeners, and Montana Power employees.

Among the professional men, educators have practically the only representation in the place names of the county. The significant lack of names in this subdivision is a reflection of the relatively simple culture inherent in the pioneering era. Only in later years with the advent of Montana State University have the professional ranks received recognition from the citizenry.

The informal nature of name giving is further emphasized in the number of natural and artificial features which have acquired Christian and middle names. There is roughly an even distribution between masculine and feminine Christian names. Women generally were honored or commemorated by members within their family, usually fathers or husbands. Some of the more colorful place names in Missoula County are
those obtained from nicknames, notably Dirty Ike Creek, Frenchy Creek, Jocko River, and Skookum Butte.

In the list of personal names, all of the place names classified as "Christian and middle names" would also qualify under some subdivision of "Local figures." In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, I have not duplicated any name within each of the five general headings of this chapter.

IV. Environmental Names (195)

A. Direction and location (32)

East Fork (Graves Creek), East Fork (Petty Creek),
East Fork (Finley Creek), East Lake, East Twin Creek, Lower Jocko Lake, Middle Creek, Middle Fork (Jocko River), Middle Fork (Schwartz Creek), Nine-mile Creek, Nine Mile, Nine Mile Divide, Nine Mile Ranger Station, North Fork (Blanchard Creek),
North Fork (Gold Creek), North Fork (Granite Creek), North Fork (Howard Creek), Six Mile Creek, South Fork (Gilbert Creek), South Fork (Jocko River), South Fork (Lolo Creek), South Fork (Petty Creek),
Upper Jocko Lake, West Fork (Clearwater River), West Fork (Cramer Creek), West Fork (Gold Creek), West Fork (Petty Creek), West Fork (Schwartz Creek), West Fork Butte, West Fork Butte Creek, West Fork Point, West Twin Creek.

B. Flora (21)

Bitterroot River, Camas Creek, Cedar Creek (2), Cot-
tonwood Creek, Cottonwood Gulch, Cottonwood Lakes,
Fern Creek, Garden Creek, Grass Valley, Hemlock Peak,
Hemlock Creek, Kamas Peak, Pine Creek, Potato Gulch,
Primrose, Prune River, Rice Creek, Sunflower Mountain,
Tamarack Gulch, Willow Creek.
C. Fauna (20)
Albino Creek, Big Salmon Creek, Cayuse Hill, Cooney
Creek, Cooney Peak, Crazy Fish Lake, Crazy Horse
Creek, Game Peak, Gray Wolf Lake, Gray Wolf Crags,
Gray Wolf Creek, Loon Lake, Owl Creek, Rattlesnake
Creek, Salmon Lake, Sheep Flats, Shoofly Meadows,
Sleeping Elk Lake, Swan River, Wild Horse Mountain.
The following are additional place names under this
classification which have not been included in this
study because of commonplace origins:
Bear Creek (5), Beaver Creek (2), Bird Creek, Buck Creek,
(2), Bull Lake, Cow Creek, Deer Creek (3), Eagle
Creek, Elk Creek (2), Elk Creek Point, Elk Lake, Elk
Mountain, Fawn Creek, Fawn Peak, Fish Creek, Fish
Lake, Frog Creek, Grouse Creek, Sheep Creek, Sheep
Mountain, Woodchuck Canyon, Woodchuck Creek.
D. Mineral and soil (14)
Black Rock Peak, Fulgurite Peak, Garnet, Garnet Range,
Granite Creek, Mineral Peak (Fulgurite Peak), Lick
Creek, Lick Lake, Lime Kiln Creek, Rock Creek,
Rocky Point, Sapphire Lake, Sapphire Mountains,
Stony Creek.
E. Approbation and disapprobation (12)

Bonita, Bonita Ranger Station, Clearwater Junction,
Clearwater Lake, Clearwater River, Crystal Creek,
Crystal Lake, Mosquito Peak, Placid Lake, Placid
Creek, Starvation Creek, Stinking Water Creek.

F. Situation and landscape (44)

Barrier Falls, Boulder Lake, Boulder Point, Cataract
Creek, Daughter-of-the-Sun Mountain, Falls Creek,
Fire Creek, Flat Creek, Glacier Lake, Glacier
Creek, Glacier Peak, Glacier Sloughs, High Falls
Creek, High Park Lake, Island Lake, Kitchen Gulch,
Lace Lake, Lace Peak, Lagoon Lake, Lake Creek,
Lightening Peak (Fulgurite Peak), Lost Park Creek,
Mailbox Gulch, Meadow Creek, Meadow Lake, Observa-
tory Creek (Rattlesnake Creek), Panoramic Peak,
Pine Grove (Clinton), Riverside (Milltown), Rubble
Lake, Rumble Creek, Rumble Creek Lake, Spook Lake,
Spring Gulch, Sudden Lake, Summit Lake, Sunset
Crag, Sunset Lake, Sunset Peak, Sunset Hill, Ter-
race Lakes, Valley Plain River (Clark Fork River),
Vista Gulch, Windfall Creek.

G. Shape and size (25)

Bean Hole Lake, Beavertail Hill, Big Lake, Big Blue
Creek, Crescent Lake, Deep Creek, Diamond Point,
Elbow Lake, Elbow Point, Heart Lake, Horse-head
Peak, Little Lake, Little Blue Creek, Little Blue
Point, Little Edith Peak, Little Marion Creek,
Little Richmond Peak, Mitten Mountain, Necklace Lakes, Petty Creek, Petty Creek Divide, Petty Mountain, Pilot Knob Mountain, Sunday Mountain, Triangle Peak.

H. Neighboring artificial features (9)
Mill Creek, Milltown, Missoula Mills (Missoula), Sawmill Gulch, Saw Pit Creek, Tank Creek, Tepee Creek, Tote Road Lake, Wagon Mountain.

I. Color (6)
Black Mountain, Blue Mountain, Red Butte, Red Butte Creek, Turquoise Lake, Verdy Gulch.

J. Other names of description and characterization (12)
Burnt Fork Creek, Burnt Point Creek, Arrowstone River (Clark Fork River), Cloudburst Creek, Dry Gulch (2), Gold Creek, Gold Lake, Mountaineer Peak, Mountaineer Lake, Twin Creeks, Twin Lakes.

Environmental names are numerous and varied in Missoula County. Unfortunately, a majority of these names lack imagination and certainly are not inspiring challenges for the place name investigator. After a few vain, frustrating attempts to establish the exact origin of a place name such as Cow Creek or Bear Creek, I decided to exclude many of these obvious but insignificant words, listing the 32 omitted names under the "Fauna" subdivision.

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the era in which most of the place naming transpired,
there were few residents and several hundred heretofore unnamed natural features. The early settlers, the major contributors to the nomenclature of the county, were people forced by the rigors of their physical environment to be practical thinkers expressing themselves in simple, direct terms. This trend is reflected in the matter-of-fact nature of environmental names, particularly with respect to names of direction, location, situation, and landscape, an example being Island Lake named for the presence of an island in the lake.

Where the name of the major creek or river drainage had been established, the tributaries of the stream frequently would be distinguished with regard to their direction or location. This methodical process, monotonous to the place name investigator, resulted in prolific use of the designations East Fork, Middle Fork, North Fork, South Fork, and West Fork.

Names of situation and landscape are usually self-explanatory. Little information can be added in this study to what is dictated by common sense in names such as Boulder Point, Falls Creek, Island Lake, and Meadow Creek. Such names have come into common usage over a period of time; as a result, the origin cannot be traced to a definite time or certain circumstances. The mountainous terrain in Missoula County is well represented in this category of names, the idea of height, grandeur, and unlimited view being a recurring theme in Daughter-of-the-Sun Mountain, High Falls
Creek, High Park Lake, Lightening Peak, Observatory Creek, Panoramic Peak, Summit Lake, Sunset Crags, Sunset Peak, and Vista Gulch. These names seem to suggest the desire and need of those early settlers to rise above the daily drudgeries of life and "drink in" the beauty of nature. Two names, Spook Lake and Sudden Lake, are distinguishable by their imaginative and humorous content.

Names descriptive of shape present vivid scenes and are colorful additions to the regional toponymy. Many of the natural features, such as Crescent Lake, Diamond Point, Elbow Lake, and Heart Lake, may be visualized immediately by the presentation of the name. More imagination is required to visually assimilate a Beavertail Hill or Horse-head Peak. Sunday Mountain is suggestive of shape, although not directly descriptive: The contour of this mountain peak resembles a church gable, which, in turn, reminds the observer of the Sabbath.

The extensive vegetation in Missoula County is well represented in its place names. Most of the names are of trees, the commonest ones being the cedar, cottonwood, hemlock, pine, tamarack, and willow. Flora names were popular in their Salish equivalents long before the appearance of Lewis and Clark, the first white explorers. The Bitterroot River, named after the official state flower of Montana, was originally named the spet-im seulku ("water of the bitter-root") and later known as Racine au Mer ("root with a bitter taste"). "The roots of the plant were harvested by the
Flathead or Salish Indians in spring or early summer and were used as a general food and appetite restorer in winter.\(^1\) The camas, as represented in Camas Creek and Kamas Peak, is the Americanized Chinook Indian name of an onion which grows wild in Montana--a plant with blue flowers. Another plant of nutritional value to the Salish Indians was the silken sunflower from which Sunflower Mountain was named.

Only the more colorful of the fauna place names have been included in this study of place name origins. Many of these names result from a predominance or, in the case of the rare albino elk, existence of a certain animal in a certain locality. Anecdotes account for some of the more thought-provoking names in the study, these being Crazy Fish Lake, Crazy Horse Creek, Shoofly Meadows, Sleeping Elk Lake, and Wild Horse Mountain.

A casual observer of Missoula County nomenclature might get the impression that because of the rocky, barren condition of the soil the county is unfit for extensive agricultural development. This false conception could arise in Granite Creek, Rocky Creek, Rocky Point, and Stony Creek. No mention is made of the fertile lowland soil along each of the eight major drainage systems of the county. One name reflecting the beauty of a precious stone, Sapphire Lake, was suggested by the greenish-blue hue of the water. Garnet and Garnet Range were named after an abundance of garnet.

stones discovered in the vicinity.

The final group of environmental names were derived from artificial features. Tepee Creek and Wagon Mountain are relics of the discovery and early exploration era. With the advent of the lumber industry, such things as saw mills, sawpits, and logging roads had a slight influence upon the toponymy of the county. The latest innovation is TV Mountain upon whose peak has been placed the transmitting tower of the one television station in Missoula County.

V. Subjective Names (25)

A. Ideals, emblems, doctrines, mottoes, etc. (1)

Union Creek

B. Biblical and saint's names (3)

St. Ignatius River (Clark Fork River), St. Louis Creek, St. Mary's River (Bitterroot River).

C. Literary and mythological (4)

Bunyan Lake, Cinderella Mountain, Sappho Creek, Sappho Lake.

D. Humorous (12)

Angel's Bathing Pool, Bean Hole Lake, Crazy Fish Lake, Crazy Horse Creek, Devil's Creek, Dirty Ike Creek, Loco Lake, Shoofly Meadows, Skookum Butte, Spook Lake, Sudden Lake, Wild Agnes (Sunset Crags).

E. Coined names and miscellaneous oddities (5)

Cahoot Gulch, Cedar Run Creek, Gyp Mountain, Nagos, Wrangle Creek.
Missoula County settlers were concerned with the physical needs of themselves, their families, and their friends. It is not surprising, then, that the subjective place names should form an almost negligible fraction of the entire body of Missoula County place names. The subjective element in place names was first introduced by Father Pierre-Jean de Smet who brought Christianity to western Montana in the early 1840's. The names of St. Ignatius and St. Mary's were to be superseded by the secular appellations, Bitterroot and Clark, leaving St. Louis Creek as the sole testimony of religious influence in the nomenclature.

Without the imagination and humorous outlook of "Cap" Eli Laird, the original settler on Lindbergh Lake, geographic names in Missoula County would be almost devoid of subjectivity. Laird's fabricated, unique names describe natural features in the wilderness area of the Mission Range. Probably the most interesting and unexpected place name origin in this study is the explanation of "Hell, only an angel could get out of there!" for the mystical sounding Angel's Bathing Pool.

Interpretations of special features of Missoula County place names are given in the next chapter where emphasis is upon philological characteristics of the words.
UNSOLVED NAMES:

Arkansas Creek
Bear Run
Belmont Creek
Belmont Point
Black Cat Gulch
Blind Gulch
Cap Wallace Creek
Coloma
Copper Cliff
Dart Creek
Double Arrow Point
Fiddler Gulch
George Lake
Gold Creek
Horn Creek
Jim Creek
Johnny Creek

Lantern Creek
Lantern Point
Lion Gulch
Little Park Creek
Nine Mile Prairie
Notlimah Lake
Reservoir Creek
Sawmill Creek
Simpson Creek
Skylark Lake
Slippery John Creek
Smart Lake
Spud Creek
Tango Creek
Thelma
Tule Gulch
Upper Northwest Lake
CHAPTER III

PHILOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF
MISSOULA COUNTY PLACE NAMES

In the preceding chapter nearly every place name in Missoula County whose origin has been determined is listed under at least one of the five broad classifications. In this concluding chapter many of these names are studied further for their philological significance. The headings used here are those suggested by Robert L. Ramsey in his Introduction to a Survey of Missouri Place-Names: 1. Composition of the Place Names; 2. Other Linguistic Features; 3. Changes in Place Names.

Inconsistencies arise in the tabulation of the actual number of place names studied, as some names have not been included while others have been cited two or more times. A name may be counted two times within one heading, as is indicated by Gray Wolf Crags under the heading, Composition of Place Names. It may even appear two times within one sub-heading, as with Rumble Creek Lake under the listing of Detached Suffixes.

To prevent distortions of the findings in this linguistic study, only presently accepted names have been included. Any general conclusions based upon this chapter would be confusing and meaningless if, for example, "gulch"
were listed twice for one natural or artificial feature, including both its past and present names. If two names are used concurrently, I usually have entered that name which is recognized on the 1946 map of Missoula County, Montana, which is not, however, a completely reliable criterion because geographic nomenclature in this county has not yet solidified and probably never will.

---

I. Composition of the Place Names (562)

A. Combinations and compounds (19)

Arrowstone (Clark Fork); Beavertail (Beaver Tail);
Bitterroot (Bitter Root); Blackfoot; Cloudburst;
Daughter-of-the-Sun; Deadman (Dead Man); Deerlodge
(Clark Fork); Flathead (Clark Fork); Horse-head; Lime
Kiln; Lolo (Lou Lou, Lou-Lou, and Lo Lo); Mailbox; Old
Town; Sawmill; Saw Pit; Shoofly; Silverbow (Clark
Fork); Windfall.

B. Detached affixes (530 names, using 84 affixes)

1. Prefixed terms (83 names, using 37 prefixed terms)

(In the following table of detached prefixes, the number of place names using each is given after it in parentheses; see the Dictionary for the names themselves.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crazy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lime</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Gray</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>Pilot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>Rocky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount</td>
<td>Six</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>Sleeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>(4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>Stinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Suffix terms (447 names, using 47 suffixed terms)
(Six of these are used with extreme frequency.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creek</th>
<th>Gulch</th>
<th>Fork</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(188)</td>
<td>(31)</td>
<td>(23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Peak</td>
<td>Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(66)</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>(18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(For the remaining 41 a complete list of the names using each is annexed, listed in the order of the number of times used.)

| Point | | |
|-------| | |
| (11: | Boles, Boulder, Burnt Point Creek, Davis, Diamond, Elbow, Iris, Little Blue, Marshall, Rocky, Springs. |

| River | | |
|-------| | |
| (6: | Bitterroot, Blackfoot, Clark Fork, Clearwater, Jocko, Swan. |

| Butte | | |
|-------| | |
| (5: | Red, Red Butte Creek, Skookum, West Fork, West Fork Butte Creek. |

| Mile | | |
|------| | |
| (5: | Nine Mile, Nine Mile Divide, Nine Mile Ranger Station, Ninemile Creek, Six Mile Creek. |

| Ranger Station | | |
|----------------| | |
| (5: | Bonita, Franklin, Lolo, Nine Mile, Seeley Lake. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flats</th>
<th>Hill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(4:</td>
<td>Blanchard, Morrell, Sheep, Smith.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4:</td>
<td>Beavertail, Boyd's, Cayuse, Sunset.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lakes (4): Cottonwood, Farmer's, Necklace, Twin.
Blue (3): Big Blue Creek, Little Blue Creek, Little Blue Point.
Canyon (3): Hellgate, O'Keefe, Pattee.
Horse (3): Crazy Horse Creek, One-Horse Creek, Wild Horse Mountain.
Valley (3): Frenchtown, Grass, Missoula.
Wolf (3): Gray Wolf Crags, Gray Wolf Creek, Gray Wolf Lake.
Crags (2): Gray Wolf, Sunset.
Divide (2): Nine Mile, Petty Creek.
Park (2): Lost Park Creek, High Park Lake.
Pass (2): Lolo, Siegal.
Range (2): Garnet, Graves Creek.
Run (2): Cedar Run Creek, Herrick.
Twin (2): East Twin Creek, West Twin Creek.
Bathing Pool (1:Angel's)
County (1:Missoula)
Creeks (1:Twin)
Elk (1:Sleeping Elk Lake)
Falls (1:Barrier Falls)
Fish (1:Crazy Fish Lake)
Grove (1:Council)
Hole (1:Bean Hole Lake)
Hot Springs (1:Lolo)
Junction (1:Clearwater)
Knob (1:Pilot Knob Mountain)
Meadows (1: Shoofly)  
Mountains (1: Sapphire)  
Ridge (1: Spaulding)  
Road (1: Tote Road Lake)  
Rock (1: Black Rock Peak)  
Salmon (1: Big Salmon Creek)

C. Attached affixes (13 names, using 6 affixes)

Prefixes (4 names, using 2 prefixes)

Clear- (3: Clearwater Junction, Clearwater Lake, Clearwater River.)

Nine- (1: Ninemile Creek)

Suffixes (9 names, using 4 suffixes)

-town (4: Finntown (now Milltown), Frenchtown, Frenchtown Valley, Milltown.)

-ville (3: Piltzville, Woodville Gulch, Wordensville (now Missoula).

-gate (2: Hellgate Canyon.

-side (1: Riverside (now Milltown).

Missoula County, being one of the oldest areas of white settlement in Montana, has a few place names dating back one hundred years, but most of the names are less than seventy years old. The county is, therefore, young from the point of view of its nomenclature.

Coalescence is the tendency for two or more parts of a place name to form one word, a process through which Clear...
Water Lake has become Clearwater Lake and French Town has become Frenchtown. The extent to which coalescence has taken place indicates the age and stability of the nomenclature of an area. Nearly all of the place names in Missoula County are in this early, unstable, detached affix form. Only 2 prefixes and 1 suffixes have completed the process of coalescence.

The major incentive for naming natural features during the white immigration was to establish landmarks for determining direction and location. The most commonly used prefixes are those indicative of location (East, High, Lower, Middle, North, South, Upper, and West) followed closely by prefixes referring to physical characteristics such as shape, size, and color (Bean, Big, Black, Clear, Flat, Gray, Little, Red, and Turquoise). The list of detached suffixes tells us that this is a sparsely settled country containing a wide variety of topographical features but most abundant in streams, lakes, gulches, and mountains. Creeks are particularly predominant in the county, there being over 200 named creeks including those place names whose origins remain unknown. There is a conspicuous lack of named waterfalls considering the rough terrain and numerous streams, the only one being Barrier Falls in the Salmon wilderness area of extreme northeastern Missoula County.

2. Linguistic Features (75)

A. Variations in spelling (14)
Barber (Barbour); Racine au Mer (Racine amere); Carlton (Carleton); Clark (Clarke); Colt (Cott); Cooney (Coney); Fournie (Fournier); LaValle (Lavallie); Lolo (Lou-Lou and Lo Lo); McLeod (McCloud and McLeod); Nagos (Dagos); Petty (Petite and Pattee); Rennie (Remic); Schwartz (Swartz).

B. Phonetic peculiarities (16)
Albert (al-bar'); Cahoot (ka hoot'); Cayuse (ki'us); Cooney (kō'nī); Eustache (ˈu stāʃ'); Evaro (ˈev/ərō); Koessler (kō'sler'); LaValle (lā vālē); McLeod (mük loud); Missoula (mǐz oʊˈlā); Nagos (nāˈgoz); Ricard (riˈkārd); Schley (shlā); Soudan (soʊˈdən); Turah (toʊˈrā); Verdy (vərˈdē).

C. Americanisms and dialect words (45)
Beavertail, Bitterroot, Butte, Cahoot, Camas, Canyon, Cayuse, Cedar, Coney, Cottonwood, Creek, Deadman, Divide, Flat, Fork, Gulch, Gyp, Hemlock, Jumbo, Knob, Lick, Loco, Mailbox, Meadow, Moccasin, Mormon, Mount, One-Horse, Park, Prairie, Rattlesnake, Run, Shoofly, Skookum, Slough, Spook, Squaw, Tamarack, Tepee, Teton, Tote, Vista, Wagon, Washoe, Windfall.

Occasional variations in the spelling of place names result from erroneous transcriptions of map makers. Usually, however, such mistaken transcriptions are not accepted by local residents and the name is restored to its original form in future maps. Several mistakes I have noted in the
text (Cold Creek for Gold Creek, Roman Creek for Ramon Creek, Hill Creek for Mill Creek, etc.), but only those which have had a permanent effect upon the spelling have been listed under the preceding heading.

Two other factors in orthographic changes are the semi-anglicization of French words as evidenced in the corruption of Racine amère to Raucine au Mer and the deletion or addition of vowels. Examples of the latter include the changing of Carleton to Carlton, Clarke to Clark, Coney to Cooney, and Lavallie to LaValle.

Phonetic peculiarities present no problem in Missoula County. The French influence is predominant in such words as Deschamps, Eustache, LaValle, and quite possibly in Ricard. Forty-five Americanisms and dialect words are included in the nomenclature of the county. These words, contained in Appendix B, are alphabetically listed and treated in detail with citations from various special dictionaries of dialectisms and Americanisms.

3. Changes in Place Names (77)

A. With reference to some particular happening or personal experience:

Inelkie to Rattlesnake Creek; Thomson Gulch to Starvation Creek.

B. Changes in ownership of land or settlers on the land:

Joe's Gulch to Davis Creek; Smith Creek to Dirty Ike Creek.
C. Changes to advertise an asset:
   Finntown to Milltown; Wordensville to Missoula Mills (Missoula).

D. Adoption of a nickname: Lindbergh Peak to Lindy Peak.

E. Translation or anglicization of a French or Indian name:
   Spet-im seulku to Racine amere to Bitterroot River;
   Porte de l'Enfer to Devil's Gate to Hellgate Canyon;
   La Ronde de la Porte de l'Enfer to Hell Gate Ronde;
   Im-i-sul-e-tiku to Missoula; Si-nim-koo to Mount Jumbo;
   Es-mock or Eshmock to Mount Sentinel; Petite to Petty Creek;
   Skiotah or Skah-o-tay to Squaw Peak.

F. Desire for a more attractive name or avoidance of a derogatory name:
   Cramer Station to Bonita; Poverty Flats to Morrell Flats;
   Dagos to Nagos; Sweat House River to Swan River.

G. Name shortening:
   Big Blackfoot Pork to Blackfoot River; Lower Doctor's Lake to Doctor's Lake;
   Lou-Lou to Lolo; Rocky Creek to Rock Creek.

H. Error of map-maker or historian:
   Joe Gulch to Chief Joseph Gulch; Cott Creek to Colt Creek;
   Coney Creek to Cooney Creek; In-schu-te-schu to Boot-lach-Schute (Bitterroot River);
   Gold Creek to Cold Creek; Bunyan Creek to Herrick Run; Mill Creek to Hill Creek;
   Mormon Creek to Morrison Creek; Pennant
Creek to Pendant Creek; Rennic Creek to Remic Creek; Ricard Gulch to Richard Gulch; Ramon Creek to Roman Creek.

I. Desire for a more appropriate name:
Cokalihishkit to Blackfoot River; Henry Nipp Gulch to Deadman Gulch; Tzis-t-k to Beaver-tail Point.

J. Desire for a more descriptive name:
Better's Station to Pine Grove (Clinton); Goat Peak, Mineral Peak, and Lightening Peak to Fulgurite Peak; Higgins Lake to Glacier Lake; Notlimah Lake to Glacier Sloughs; Chill-mae to Grass Valley; Catching Creek to Kitchen Creek; Chil-soc-soc-woe to Lower Jocko Lake; Skiotah or Skah-o-tay to Ninemile Creek; South Branch to Rock Creek; Kul-ko-lau to Six Mile Creek.

K. Desire to honor someone:
Clearwater Lake to Alma Lake; Na-se-latkh to Butler Creek; Arrowstone, Bitterroot, Clarke, Clark's Fork, Deerlodge, Flathead, Hellgate, Kalispell, Missoula, Pend O'reille, Silverbow, St. Ignatius, and Valley Plain to Clark Fork River; Beaver Dam Creek to Cramer Creek; Course de Femmes to Finley Creek; Prune River to Jocko River; Na-se-latkh to LaValle Creek; Springstein Gulch to Leeper Gulch; Elbow Lake to Lindbergh Lake; Tum-sum-lech to Lolo; Arlee, Jocko, McCloud, and McLeod to McLeod Peak; Hellgate to Wordsensville (Missoula); Black Butte to Mount Dean Stone; Gaspard to Mellady (Schilling); Mellady to Schilling; Coriacken.
Defile to O'Keefe's Canyon; Birch Creek to Schwartz Creek; Murphy Peak to Stuart Peak; Camas Trail Creek to Wallace Creek.

L. Change to avoid ambiguity:
   Blossberg to Clinton; Petty Creek to Josephine Creek; Riverside to Finntown (Milltown); Pattee Creek to Petty Creek.

M. Desire to transfer name from other environment:
   Camas Prairie to Potomac.

N. Change to avoid vulgarity: Squaw's Tit to Squaw Peak.

O. Arbitrary changes:
   Beaver-tail Point to Beavertail Hill; Pattee Point to Pattee Mountain; Piltz Addition to Piltzville.

P. Reason unknown: Pine Grove to Blossberg (Clinton).

Missoula County residents of the past have been of a practical nature in the revision of geographic names. Subjective names have been held to a minimum, as noted in the previous chapter, while descriptive names have been widely substituted in the process of name changing. Unfortunately, the changes have not always been for the betterment of the nomenclature. In his desire to commemorate a friend or worthy person, the bestower of a name has driven into obsolescence such picturesque names as Beaver Dam Creek, Course de Femmes, and Elbow Lake while replacing those names with less imaginative appellations such as Cramer Creek, Finley Creek, and Lindbergh Lake.
Presently, the following sets of names are in concurrent use, neither having as yet become more widely accepted than the other: Cramer Gulch and McMullan Gulch; East Lake and Lost Lake; Sapphire Lake and Alpine Lake; West Fork (Cramer Creek) and Morrison Creek; Union Creek and Camas Creek. Such names are in a transitional period; one will eventually be preferred over the other. In a broader sense, the whole geographic nomenclature of Missoula County is in somewhat the same transitional phase, a slow but constant process of change that could be evidenced if anyone familiar with the toponymy of the area were to read this study fifty years from now. As with history, place name research never remains up-to-date but must be revised with passing years.
"It appears that the coyote married. His alliance was a love match, but he was a fickle fellow, and when two sons arrived, he showed no inclination to support them or his wife. The wife, however, invoked higher authority and compelled Coyote to provide for his family. He complained bitterly, and told his troubles to the spirits across the range. They sympathized with him, and gave him a salmon that he was to take and place in the stream Tum-sum-lech to furnish food for his wife and children.

The only condition that was imposed upon him was that when he took the salmon across the range, he should not look back. It was the same injunction that was given to Lot's wife. Coyote missed just as the woman of Scripture did. He took the salmon in his mouth and climbed the western side of the range. He kept his eyes frontward till he reached the summit. Then the demands of nature compelled him to pause. He stopped and laid down the salmon. At that instant he thoughtlessly cast his eye back to the valley that he had just left. As he did so, the salmon slipped down the mountainside, and back into the Clearwater. The opportunity for stocking the stream with salmon was lost, and so it was called Tum-sum-lech--No Salmon. This name became forgotten in the simpler one, Lolo, that remains today." (See Previous Indian Name of Lolo Creek)
APPENDIX B

A GLOSSARY OF DIALECT WORDS AND AMERICANISMS

In this glossary I have alphabetized the dialect words and Americanisms included in the composition of numerous Missoula County place names. For each of these forty-five words I have recorded its use in a place name, the sense in which it was chosen as a place name, and definitions extracted from authoritative dictionaries and related dialect studies. If more than one definition is given for a word, that definition which, to the best of my knowledge, is the most authentic is given first.

The asterisk precedes a word that did not originate in American English but has since become an Americanism. An etymology, wherever it has been determined, is enclosed in brackets.

For convenience the following abbreviations have been used:

A Adams, Western Words: a Dictionary of the Range
ATS Berrey, The American Thesaurus of Slang
B Bartlett, Dictionary of Americanisms
C The Century Dictionary and Encyclopedia
DA A Dictionary of Americanisms on Historical Principles
DAE A Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles
BEAVERTAIL

Beavertail Hill: the hill resembling a beavertail.


BITTERROOT /trans./ from the French racine amère/.

Bitterroot River: from the plant whose root was dug up and used for food by the Flathead Indians.

S: A herb with nutritious roots. It gives name to Bitterroot Mountains between Montana and Idaho. So C.

WB: A succulent plant of the Rocky Mountains, having fleshy, farinaceous roots and handsome pink flowers, adopted as the state flower of Montana.

DAE: Tobacco-root (Lewisia rediviva) found in Oregon, Idaho, and adjacent territories. 1845. So DA 11.

BUTTE /French butte signifying hillock, mound/.

Red Butte and Red Butte Creek: name descriptive of the land formation and its color.

OED: U.S. Also bute. In western U.S.: an isolated hill or peak rising abruptly. 1836. So A, S.

B: Bartlett quotes from Colonel Fremont's Expedition to
the Rocky Mountains, p. 145, "It is applied to the detached hills and ridges which rise abruptly, and reach too high to be called hills or ridges, and not high enough to be called mountains. 'Knob,' as applied in the Western States, is their most descriptive term in English..." (Colonel Fremont's Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, p. 145.) So DAE, DA.

C: A conspicuous hill or mountain, especially one that attracts attention by its isolation, or serves as a landmark. So WB.

CAHOOT [possibly French cahorte, a company or gang].

Cahoot Gulch: named because two men went "in cahoot(s)" to split rails in this gulch.

B: It is used in the South and West to denote a company or partnership. Men who live in the same hut or shanty, or who make one family, are "in cahoot." Hence, to act in partnership. 1857.... So OED, DAE, W(2.), A, S, WB, C.

CAMAS [Chinook jargon, ultimately from chamas signifying 'sweet' in the Nootka language of Vancouver]. Also camass, kamas, cammas.

Camas Creek and Kamas Peak: so named because the camas plant with blue flowers was formerly a beautiful sight on the landscape.

DA: Designating areas where this plant is found, as camass field, flat, ground, meadow, plain, prairie. 1847....
OED: Camash, cammas, and camas are various forms of quamish (*Camassia esculenta*), a liliaceous plant, whose bulbs are eaten by North American Indians. 1837.... So S, WB.

C: The Indian name of the western species of *Camassia*, *C. esculenta*, and *C. leichtlinii*, which are found growing in moist meadows from northern California to British Columbia and eastward to western Montana.

DAE: Camas Root. The esculent root of the camas. 1837...

CANYON /a phonetic spelling of Spanish *canon*, designed to represent the proper spoken word/. Also kanyon. Used in four place names. Hellgate, Pattee, O'Keefe, and Woodchuck Canyons.

B: A narrow, tunnel-like passage between high and precipitous banks, formed by mountains or table-lands, often with a river running beneath. So DAE, DA(1.), W(2.), S.

C: Frequently applied to what would probably be called in English a defile, ravine, or gorge.

A: The Spanish word originally meant a large tube or funnel.

WB: Canyons are characteristic of regions when, owing to aridity or to great slope, the downward cutting of the streams greatly exceeds weathering.

CAYUSE /said to be from the language of the Chinook Indians of Oregon/.

Cayuse Hill: the name of an Indian pony.
As the name of the wild horse of Oregon, so called for the Cayuse Indian tribe, an equestrian people; synonymous with "mustang." Commonly used by the northern cowboy in referring to any horse. At first the term was used for the western horse, to set it apart from a horse brought overland from the East. In later years the name was applied as a term of contempt to any scrubby, undersized horse. So C.


DAE: 3. Attrib. with bell, horse, pony. 1857. So DA (1-2), W.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, cayuse is "said to be from the language of the Chinook Indians of Oregon," but Mr. H. L. Davis believes it is from the French cailloux (pebbles).

CEDAR

Used in two Cedar Creeks: from the tree of that name which grows abundantly near these two creeks.

DAE: 1. Designating place or area where cedar is the prevailing growth. 1824. So B, DAE(1a.), S, WB.

OED: A name applied in the United States to different genera of the pine family. So B, DAE(1a.), S, WB. C: 1. A tree of the coniferous genus, Cedrus, of which 3 species are known.

CONEY

Cooney Peak and Cocney Creek: a corrupted form of the
word. Indicating the multitude of the mountain breed of rabbits of this name which have been seen along the headwaters of this creek. Peak named from proximity to creek.

OED: Also cony. Applied also locally to the Pika or Calling Hare (*Lagomys princeps*) of the Rocky Mountains....

DAE:2. The little chief hare or pika.... 1878... So DA (2.), W, S, WB, C(4.).

COTTONWOOD

Cottonwood Lakes, Cottonwood Creek, and Cottonwood Gulch: named for the dense growth of cottonwood trees in this area.

OED: The name of several species of poplar (*Populus*) in the U.S.; so called from the cotton-like substance surrounding the seeds. 1823.... So B, DAE (1-2), DA (1.), S, WB, C.

CREEK

Extremely common in this county as a detached suffix; occurs 188 times.

OED:2b. In U.S. and British Colonies: a branch of a main river, a tributary river; a rivulet, brook, small stream, or run. 1674.... So DAE (2.), W (2.), C (2.), M.

DA:1. A stream larger than a brook but smaller than a river, originally a larger stream or body of water. 1622.... So S, WB.
Deadman Gulch: resulting from a man who drowned in this gulch.

WB: A corpse: ---now as one word in place names only.

OED: Obsolete. Dead man was formerly written and pronounced as one word. So DA.

Fish Creek Divide and Nine Mile Divide: in both instances a mountain ridge acquiring its name from a nearby creek.

OED: In U.S. and British Colonies: a ridge or line of high ground forming the division between two river valleys or systems; a watershed. 1807.... So B, DAE (l.), DA (l.), S, WB, C.

Blanchard Flats and Sheep Flats: name arising from the sharp contrast between the surrounding mountainous topography and the flat, low lying pasture land.

DAE: 2. Low land sufficiently free from overflowing to be valuable as pasture or farm land. 1651....

Br. In America, this word is applied to low alluvial lands. "The Mohawk flats" is a term universally applied to the valley of the Mohawk River, on either side of which are alluvial lands. So C (2.).

DAE: 1. A shallow or shoal: a low-lying track of land covered usually or periodically with water as by the tide. 1634.... So S, WB.
FORK

Obsolete English word restored to usage in America.

Used as a detached suffix in 23 place names in this county.

OED: 12c. The point at which a river divides into two, or the point of juncture of two rivers; a branch or tributary. Chiefly U.S. 1753. So DAE (1a-1c), DA (1a-1c), W, S, C(3).

GULCH

Of uncertain origin; cf. English dialect "gulch," "gulsh." Probably an obsolete English word restored to usage in America.

One of the more common detached suffixes: occurs 31 times in this county.

OED: 1. U.S. A narrow and deep ravine with steep sides, marking the course of a torrent; especially one containing a deposit of gold. 1850. So DAE, DA, S, WB.

GYP

Short for "Gypsy," Gypsy used as a proper name for a bitch.

Gyp Mountain: probably named in an expression of disgust by some early trapper or settler, but possibly named because of gypsum deposits in the mountain.

HEMLOCK

Hemlock Creek and Hemlock Peak: creek named from the predominance of hemlock trees along its banks. Peak named from proximity to the creek.

OED: A North American tree, Abies canadensis, more fully Hemlock Fir, Hemlock Spruce, so called from the
resemblance of its branches in tenuity and position to the leaves of the common hemlock. 1776. . . So C(2.).

DAE: 1. Any one of various species of American evergreen trees of the genus *Tsuga*; a tree of such a species. 1728. . . So Da(l.), W, S, WB.

**JUMBO** /uncertain origin, but possibly the second element in Mumbo Jumbo, a name applied (since England in the 18th century) to a West African divinity or bogey./

Mount Jumbo: name derived from the resemblance to the famous Barnum circus elephant of that name.

OED: 1. A big clumsy person, animal, or thing; popularized especially as the individual name of an elephant, famous for its size, in the London Zoological Gardens which was subsequently sold to Barnum in February, 1882; whence applied to an individual that is big of its kind or to a person of great skill or success. So DA (2.), C, WB, S.

**KNOB** /origin not established/

Pilot Knob Mountain: The peak of the mountain is visible from all directions and is used as a landmark to "pilot" hunters and trappers.

OED: 2. A prominent isolated rounded mound or hill; a knoll; a hill in general; especially in the U.S. 1650 . . . . So B, S, WB, C(c.).

DAE: 1. As the name of a particular region. 1804. . . .
LICK

Lick Creek and Lick Lake: name referring to the numerous natural licks in this area.

OED: U.S. A spot to which animals resort to lick the salt or salt earth found there. 1751. So B, WB, S, DAE (lb.).

DAE: lb. In place names. 1774.

LOCO [Spanish word for "crazy"].

Loco Lake: named after what were thought to be two crazy ("locoed") horses.

OED: U.S. One of several leguminous plants found in the western and south western U.S. which, when eaten by cattle or horses produces "loco-disease." 1883 Harper's Magazine, March 503/1 "The loco or rattleweed, met with also in California, drives them/horses/ raving crazy." So DAE(1c.), DA(1b-2), A, S, WB, C, M.

MAILBOX

Mailbox Gulch: mailboxes for three ranches located in the gulch.

DAE: 2. A box in which mail is deposited to be collected by the postal service, or in which private mail is left by a carrier. 1872. So OED(4b.), DAE, S, WB.

MEADOW

The name of two creeks and one lake.

DAE: 2. A level area of limited extent in a mountainous region, often grassy and usually dry. Frequently in place names. 1870. So DAE(1c.).

MOCCASIN [Algonquian]

Moccasin Creek: origin unknown.

OED: 1. A kind of foot-gear made of deerskin or other soft leather, worn by the Indians of North America, and by the trappers and backwoodsmen who have adopted Indian customs. 1612. So B, DAE(1), S, WB, C, DA(1).


MORMON

Mormon Creek and Mormon Peak: the result of a Mormon settlement in this vicinity in the late 1870's.

OED: Founded in 1830 at Manchester, New York, by Joseph Smith, on the basis of alleged Divine revelations contained in the 'Book of Mormon.' So C, WB, S.

DA: 2. A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. 1830.

MOUNT

Used in names of 4 mountains in Missoula County.

DAE: 1. A more or less conical hill or mountain. Obsolete except in place names. 1649. So WB.

S: The term is applied somewhat loosely, especially in the poetical sense, to low hillocks or to lofty mountains. So C.
ONE-HORSE

One-Horse Creek: named from a "one-horse" town along the
creek in the 1860's which has long since been aban­
doned.

B: In the West, by any obvious agricultural figure, this
term is applied to anything small or diminutive, as a
"one-horse bank" and a "one-horse church," meaning a
little bank or church. So the phrase "one-horse law­
yer" is applied to a mean, pettifogging fellow. A
clergyman, deprecating the use of such expressions as
"Confound it" calls them "one-horse oaths." So DA, A,
C(3.), WB.

DAE: One-horse town. A small and unimportant town. Usu­
ally disparaging. 1855.... So OED.

PARK

Used in a descriptive sense in Little Park Creek, Lost
Park Creek, and High Park Lake.

DA:1. An area resembling an artificial park or pleasure
ground occurring naturally in a forest or unsettled
area. Also in place names. 1643.... So S.

DA:3. In the Rocky Mountains, especially in Colorado and
Wyoming, a valley shut in by high hills or mountains.
1839.... So OED(4.).

PRAIRIE  \sqrt{\text{French word meaning 'a meadow'}}.

Lost Prairie Creek and Nine Mile Prairie: descriptive of
terrain and indicative of location.

OED: A tract of level or undulating grass land, without
trees, and usually of great extent; applied chiefly to the grassy plains of North America; a savannah, a steppe. 1682.... So B, DAE(1-2), DA(1.), W, S, WB, C.

M: Prairie begat an enormous progeny during the great movement into the West. In 1828 Noah Webster omitted altogether from his American Dictionary of the English Language the word "prairie," but Thornton shows that its use to designate the western steppes was already common before the Revolution.

RATTLESNAKE

Rattlesnake Creek: with reference to some early trapper's or explorer's experience with the poisonous snake.

DAE:3. In the names of places or objects associated with rattlesnakes, 1666.... So DA(2c.).

B: A genus of serpents, Crotalus horridus, celebrated for the danger which accompanies their bite, and for the peculiar appendages to their tail. This venemous reptile, of which there are many species, is exclusively confined to America. A member of the family Crotalidae. So DA(1.), S, WB, C.

\*RUN

Bear Run, Cedar Run, and Herrick Run: synonymous with creek or stream.

OED:II.9. A small stream, brook, rivulet, or watercourse; a channel or overflow. Chiefly U.S. and north. 1581..

... So B, DAE(1.), W(1.), S.
WB: Having a swift or very appreciable current.
C:i. A flowing or pouring, as of a liquid; a current; a flow.

SHOOFLY /from 'shoo' 'fly/.
Shoofly Meadows: an expression arising from a traveler's reaction to the numerous flies and mosquitoes in these swampy lowlands.

M: Denoted as one of those temporary phrases which spring up, one scarcely knows how, and flourish unaccountably for a few months and then disappear forever, leaving no sign. Shoo-fly, however, afflicted the American people for four or five years.

P: A stock saying about 1870-1920.
DA:1. Originally, in the name of the nonsense song "Shoo fly: don't bother me!" and of a shuffling dance. 1865....

SKOOKUM /Chinook jargon, powerful, evil spirit, from Chehalis skukum/.
Skookum Butte: named after "Skookum Bill" Woodman, an early day colorful figure.

DA:2. Strong, power. As an example of the word's usage: 1949 Sierra Club Bulletin, June, p. 105..."Billy and Pete were skookum and I was pretty tough myself in those days." So W, WB, M.

*SLOUGH

Glacier Slough: a swampy place with no drainage which has been formed by an overflow from Glacier Creek.
OED: Slew. (Also Slew, Sleugh) U.S. and Canada. A marshy or reedy pool, pond, small lake, backwater, or inlet. 1708.... So DAE(1.), DA(1.), W(2.), WB.

C:2. A marshy hollow, a reedy pond; also, a long shallow ravine, or open creek, which becomes partly or wholly dry in summer. (western U.S.)

*SPOOK contribution of New Amsterdam Dutc^.

Spook Lake: relating to the mysterious atmosphere caused by the dense forest which surrounds the lake.

B: A ghost, hobgoblin. A term much used in New York. This word has been adopted by the English at the Cape of Good Hope.

DA: A ghost or specter. 1801.... So ATS, W, C, OED, WB.

S: Now commonly humorous (colloquial).

SQUAW /Narrangansett Indian squaws, Massachusetts squa woman, with related forms in many other Algonquin dialects/.

Squaw Peak: a translated Indian word which was changed to avoid the descriptive vulgarity of Squaw's Tit.

OED: 1. A North American Indian woman or wife. 1634.... So B, DAE, DA(1.), S, WB, C.

TAMARACK /Algonquian native Indian name in Canada/.

Tamarack Gulch: an abundance of tamaracks which are in picturesque contrast with the coniferous trees in the fall.

OED: Also -ac, ach (erroneously tamarisk). (a.) Properly the American Larch or Hackmatack (Larix americana)
growing in moist situations in British North America and
the northern U.S.; also, the timber of this tree.
(b.) Also applied to the Black or Ridge-pole Pine
(Pinus murrayana) of dry inland regions of western
North America, and sometimes to the Scrub Pine (Pinus
contorta) of the coast. 1817.... So B, DAE, DA, S,
WB, C.

TEPEE  \sqrt{Dakota tipi from the Siouan root ti (to dwell) and
pi (used for)}.

Tepee Creek: remnants of tepee poles seen in the area.

OED: Also teepee, tepie, teepe. A tent or wigwam of the
American Indians formed of bark, mats, skin, or can­
vas stretched over a frame of poles converging to and
fastened together at the top. 1872.... So B, DAE, DA,
S, WB, C.

A: (teepee) An idiom used by the cowboy in referring to
his home.

TETON  \sqrt{Sioux word meaning 'dwellers on the prairie'}.

Teton Gulch: referring to either 'dwellers on the prairi­
ie' or 'woman's breasts.'

WB: The western and largest division of the Siouan
tribes....About 25,000 Sioux now live on reservations
in the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Montana. So S.

TOTE  \sqrt{of obscure origin}.

Tote Road Lake: name transferred to the lake from an
adjacent road over which lumber trucks hauled (toted)
logs and camp supplies.
OED: U.S. colloquial, chiefly South. Also toat. To carry a burden or load; also, to transport, especially supplies to, or timber, etc. from, a logging camp or the like. 1676.... So B, DAE(1.), DA(1-ld), W, S, WB, C.

C: Usually said to be an African word, introduced by southern Negroes. Humorous use in North and West, although colloquial in the South.

M: Seems to have arisen out of some spontaneous process, so far unintelligible.

VISTA / Italian (also Spanish and Portuguese) vista from Latin vis, ppl. stem of videre ('to see'). Vista Gulch: the view through the gulch prompting the name.

OED: 1. A view or prospect, especially one seen through an avenue of trees or other long and narrow opening. 1657.... So W, S, WB, C.

WAGON

Wagon Mountain: recalling the story of a traveler who left his wagon on the mountain after failing in his attempt to pull it through the heavy timber.

DAE: 3. A strong vehicle used to transport emigrants and their property to the West, 1810.... So S, WB.

OED: 6. U.S. A light four-wheeled vehicle used for various business purposes; also, loosely, a similar vehicle used for pleasure. 1837....

DA: 1. A carriage or other light vehicle, usually for
passengers and pleasure. 1799.

WASHOE [\textit{native term meaning 'person'}].

Washoe Creek: common gold rush name transferred from the California and Nevada gold fields.

DA: 2. A name for the territory or region which became the state of Nevada. Named received widespread popularity with the discovery of the Comstock lode in 1859. 1856.

WB: Pertaining to or designating an American Indian linguistic family, consisting of a single tribe, the Washo, formerly inhabiting a small area about Lake Tahoe, in California and Nevada.

WINDFALL

Windfall Creek: because of numerous windfalls along the creek partly as a result of tornado-like winds.

OED: 1. Something blown down by the wind or the fall of something so blown down: (a.) a tree or branch, or a number of trees or branches; specifically (chiefly U.S.) a heap or tract of fallen trees blown down by a tornado. 1464. So B, DAE, DA(10.), S, WB, C(1.).
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PRIMARY SOURCES

I. Personal
   A. Interviews
   B. Correspondence

II. Documentary
   A. Early Travels
   B. Plats
   C. Miscellaneous Notes of Specific Origins

SECONDARY SOURCES

I. Histories
   A. General Histories of Montana
   B. Regional, Local, and County Histories
   C. Newspapers
   D. Magazine Articles
   E. Pamphlets

II. Geographical References--Historical Maps

III. General References
   A. Dialect dictionaries and dictionaries of Americanisms
   B. Miscellaneous

IV. Previous Place Name Studies
   A. General
   B. Montana and Missoula County
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1. Albert, Mrs. Nora. Mailing address of Alberton, Mineral Co.


4. Big Sam, Joseph. Arlee. Life-long resident on the Jocko Indian Reservation in Lake Co.


6. Cook, A. B. Lifetime resident of Cramer Creek.

7. Corra, Theresa. Rock Creek area.


12. Elliot, Bruce. Rock Creek Lodge.

13. Elliot, Mrs. Lee. Long-time resident near Bonita Ranger Station.


17. Gilbert, Mrs. Louise, Lolo Hot Springs. Life-long resident of Lolo Creek area.

18. Hamel, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond N., Frenchtown. Hamel’s father, also Edmond Hamel, who was born of French descent in Canada January 21, 1840, was one of the first settlers in the Frenchtown area.


24. Hossack, John F. Alternate Forest Ranger in charge of timber sales in Ninemile Creek district.

25. Johnson, Claun D. Resident of Missoula Co. since 1931 and of the Deep Creek area since 1946.


29. Koessler, Mrs. Horace, Missoula.

30. Maloney, Dan. Lifetime resident of Miller Creek area.

31. McClain, M. A., Missoula. Recently retired after 53 years as engineer and fireman on the N.P.R.R.

32. McClain, Mrs. Nancy, Missoula.

33. McElligott, Patrick. Lifetime resident of Ninemile Creek area. McElligott’s father was one of the earliest settlers and prospectors in this region. Past occupations: heavy machine operator and Forest Service employee.
34. Middlemist, Ross. Alternate Forest Ranger at Lolo Ranger Station. Long-time resident.


36. Nettle, Mrs., Clinton. Born in 1870. Came to the Clinton area in 1883.


38. Ferro, Lester. Seeley Lake resident since 1915.


41. Runyon, Mrs. C. R., Lothrop. Resident since 1902.

42. Schmitz, W. W., Alberton (Miner Co.). Long-time resident who settled originally in the Petty Creek country.

43. Sol, Dirk. Owner of the original Martin ranch e. of Missoula.

44. Stamk, Mr. and Mrs. John, Lindbergh Lake. Son-in-law and daughter of "Cap" Laird who came to this country in 1927. Laird named many of these lakes and peaks in the Mission Range wilderness area and is credited for bestowing some of the more picturesque names in the county.


46. Sullivan, James T. Resident of Seeley Lake since the 1920's.

47. Swartz, Forest. Born in 1894. Life-time resident of Schwartz Creek.

48. Thieme, Dr. Warren E. A chiropractor in the Seeley Lake area since the 1920's.


52. Whittaker, Jack, Bonner. Came to Montana in 1893 and to Bonner in 1895. Worked for Anaconda Copper Mining in Bonner for 55 years.

53. Wilhelm, Mr. and Mrs. R. W., Condon. Residents since 1922.

54. Williams, Edward. Rancher on Lolo Creek.

55. Williams, Ted. Life-time resident of Lolo Creek.

56. Winter, Russell F., Bonner. An Anaconda Copper Mining employee since 1919.


58. Wisherd, Arthur L. Settled along the Blackfoot River in 1916.


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1. Elliot, Mrs. Lee

2. McElligott, Patrick

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C. Miscellaneous Notes of Specific Place Name Origins


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United States Forest Service bulletin in the files at Condon Ranger Station, 1960, proclaiming the origin and naming of Shoemaker Peak.

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B. SECONDARY SOURCES

I. Histories

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B. Regional, Local, and County Histories


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C. Newspapers

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Kalispell Times, May 21, 1942.

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Powell County Post, December 10, 1920.

D. Magazine Articles


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E. Pamphlets


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II. Geographical References

A. Historical Maps (arranged chronologically)

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U. S. General Land Office (records of the Department of Interior), Territory of Montana, 1876 or 1879.

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Cram, George F., Montana, 1886.

B. Contemporary Maps

U. S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service), Lolo National Forest (East Half), Montana, 1939.

Map of Missoula County, Montana, 1946 (compiled from county, state, and federal surveys at Missoula, Montana—April, 1940).

III. General References

A. Dialect dictionaries and dictionaries of Americanisms


B. Miscellaneous


IV. Previous Place Name Studies

A. General


B. Montana and Missoula County


Miscellaneous information from Missoula Courthouse records about some of the places and men mentioned in the following thesis

Albert
William Albert sold cattle to Alex Albert on Nov 24, 1884.
Placide Albert was election judge at Grass Valley in 1888, 1890, 1892.

Ashby
Robert S Ashby was postmaster at Potomac from Aug 14, 1884 to Sept 10, 1885; he was also an election judge in 1884.

Clinton
Austin Betters and Charles Harris jointly bought "Pine Grove House, a restaurant and bar in Pineland Grove" on April 14, 1883. It was located "2 miles south of Wallace district on road from Missoula to Bear's Mouth".
LW Frank sold the land to Betters and Harris; he was postmaster at Pineland from Oct 30, 1882 to April 2, 1883, while Edward Frank preceded him as postmaster from July 28, 1882 to Oct 30, 1882.

Cramer
Martin Cramer bought Keystone Ranch at Beavertail Hill on Sept 23, 1876; he was an election judge at Baker's Station in 1880 and at Bonita in 1886, 1889, 1890.

Beecher
William Beach was one of the incorporators of San Martina Mining Co on Nov 10, 1891.

Big Lake
Before the Forest Service renamed the lakes at the headwaters of Rattlesnake Creek, the executors of CF Higgins' estate claimed water rights in Maurice and Josh lakes on Nov 22, 1889.
On June 2, 1890, Clarence R Prescott filed water rights in Helen Lake, First Lake (15 miles from town), Hilda 16 miles, Prescott 17 miles, Josh and Timothy both 18 miles, and Maurice 19 miles.

Blanchard
Hiram S Blanchard filed water rights in springs on Nine Mile Prairie on Aug 30, 1884.
On Dec 17, 1892 the Clearwater Land and Livestock Co was incorporated by Hiram and Libbie Blanchard and Acres Rathbun of Albany, New York. In 1895, the company was expanded to permit hotels and stores at "Clearwater, Blackfoot Park and Placid Lake".

Carleton
Robert M Carleton and wife Mary first paid taxes in 1875.
Catching: Joel P Catching sold land with lumber mill on it that was located 3 miles below Wallace (Clinton) on Nov 24, 1884.

Davis: Pleasant Davis had water right on Elk Horn Creek, east side of Bitter Root, emptying into the river 1 ½ miles north of Woodchuck on Feb 23, 1884. On maps, Davis Creek appears to be at least 4 miles north of Woodchuck. Lysander M, Pleasant and William Davis were all partners in several mining enterprises near Lolo for which claims were filed between 1883 and 1891.

Dirty Ike: Patrick Donovan took out water right on Dirty Ike Creek near John Larmo's sawmill "which is ½ mile from McGinly's house that was built by Philander Perry"; water right dated March 3, 1883.

Bustache: Eustache Barrette and Donald A Stewart bought from Albert Senecal ½ interest in ditch and water right from Bustache Creek to bar on March 25, 1878.

McClain: Jacob P McClain filed water right from Carleton Creek on April 20, 1861. On Jan 3, 1882, he bought land near McClain's siding on RF which is several miles north of Carleton Creek, and close to McClain Creek. He paid taxes in 1875 and possibly a year or two earlier.

Martina Old Town: Montreal election precinct was created at mouth of St Louis Gulch (Old Town location) on June 7, 1875. Martina post office was established on June 23, 1875. In 1878, polling place of Montreal precinct was at Marion's store, and Joe Marion was simultaneously the postmaster of Martina. Elections were held at Montreal precinct until 1884; then no elections in area until 1894 when Martina precinct was created.

One Horse: An item in the Univ of Montana clipping file says that Robert Linder owned the store at One Horse. He was county commissioner in 1873.

Mitouer: Misspelled for Abram N Mittower who settled near Victor. He came in 1883 or earlier to western Montana being paid for building a bridge in 1883.
Mormon

In 1866, Mathew Adams & Co was taxed for ranch on Van Pittan Creek.
In 1870, he was taxed for land on Vanetta Creek.
(EG Van Pittan was a Mormon who freighted supplies from Salt Lake to trade for horses, and wintered in different places in Bitterroot and Jocko valleys between 1854-1861.)
In 1884, William Parenburg sold his sawmill on south branch of Lolo, but exact location not stated.
In 1882, William P Maclay took out water right on "Sawyer sometimes called Mormon" Creek.

O'Brien

David O'Brien had water right on "McCain's Creek emptying into Bitterroot from west opposite farm of Thomas O'ley" on Nov 1, 1870.
On Nov 26, 1866, John McCain preempted land on west bank of Bitterroot, "starting 1/2 mile below mouth of McCain's Creek extending to creek".
In 1866 also, Thomas O'ley preempted land on "northeast bank of Bitterroot, 3 miles south of Neill Creek".

Petty

In early 1870s, David Pattee had homestead and stage station at mouth of Petty for short time; in late 1870s, he had a hotel "station" on Pattee Creek, a tributary of Nine Mile. Later Pattee was renamed Josephine.

Sleeman

Richard A Sleeman filed water right on May 6, 1885.

Turah

Ben Stringham bought Sour Dough Tom Ranch "west of Three Mile Grade in Hellgate Canyon" on Sept 5, 1881.
He bought it from GK Vaughn who bought from CA Lynch whose deed said it was 10 miles east of Missoula.

Wallace

July 1878 Missoulians have stories of band of Nez Perce who had accompanied Chief Joseph preceding year and spent winter in Canada and were on their way back to Idaho. There were fights near Bear Mouth and again on Rock Creek during which several white miners were killed. Fort Missoula detached Lt Thomas S Wallace and 12 soldiers to chase Indians; they caught up with Indians on Clearwater, killed six, killed or captured all the horses.
Aug 2, 1878 when a new mining district was being organized, the men voted to name the district "Wallace". Wallace post office was established 1883; Wallace election precinct 1886; post office name was changed to Clinton in 1892 and election precinct name changed in 1894.