A photo of early Fairview.

Historic communities: Fairview

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SIDNEY HERALD

"The city was named by a few guys talking at the Old Log Store. One said it was a fair view and the other said it was a fair field. So they put the names on a vote and Fairview won. A letter was sent to the state to make it official," Doris Taylor, Fairview resident, said.

And so it was, the fertile land along the banks and in the valley by the Yellowstone River. Founded in 1906 by Lewis Newlon, a relative of Andrew Newlon for whom the Newlon township was named after. It wasn't until 1912, though, that Fairview hit its boom – the railroad came through town. The Hotel Albert was soon built, and a creamery, cheese plant, brick factory and pickle company were all established. Business, roads and transportation took root in Fairview, making a town to stand to last the consolidation which modern technology brought.

"The coal mine and power plant brought many workers," Taylor said. "And many of the factories, built with the bricks made at the brick factory, are still standing."

"It was once known as the 'city of certainties.' I saw that on one of the post cards," Taylor added, including that back in the early 20th century post cards were called postals.

As is now, there was an East Fairview in North Dakota and Fairview, Montana. Taylor recalls the North Dakota side had a liquor store, a grocery store, a big hotel and restaurant. "There was a dance hall called Buckets of

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> Fairview resident

Blood, I guess because of all the fights they had there," Taylor said.

Before all the technology and transportation, Fairview was self-contained with doctors, dentists, midwives, grocery stores and lumber yards.

"As far as can be determined, though, Fairview has had its share of doctors even in the earlier days," Mary Barr was quoted in an article in the Fairview News in 1977.

"We had the rural phone lines, party lines, you know," Taylor said. "I would run and tell people if they had a call. I got a nickel each time I did this, sometimes even a dime." Taylor laughs, glad of the memories.

Fairview grew in what it offered to students as well.

"We had a school building, built with the bricks from the brick factory," Taylor said. There were rooms and teachers for each grade, and they even had music lessons. Fairview also had a high school. "People from around the county would come to go to school. I remember sometimes sisters or cousins would use the basement (for room and board). They'd have to cook and

clean for themselves. Sometimes they'd go back home on the weekends, but sometimes they couldn't."

The women's basketball team of 1919-1920 was said to be "Fairview's greatest basketball team" by the Fairview News. The girls team won the Eastern Montana Championship, and in 1920, the boys team won the championship.

That year, 1920, was the ending of the nearby town of Mondak.

"They moved houses and buildings across the river, on the ice, when it was frozen," Taylor remembers. The Boston Chronicle on Feb. 16, 1920, also makes mention, "Mondak, Montana, regarded as a clearing house of liquor and crime for a section of the northwest...The toughest town in the West has passed!...The conductors of trains that stopped in Mondak had to qualify as fist fighters as well as railroad men, for the struggle for tickets was a critical one in the mobs of drunken, hilarious workers returning to their camps and fields after a spree in Mondak. Today, there is not enough traffic to warrant keeping a waiting room open."

Fairview, the last town before North Dakota, was where the smaller communities east of Sidney consolidated to. And through it all, the spirit of the west, of the old times, can still be felt in the town. Though the main street in town is now Ellery, and State Street has lost the terrorizing flavor it once held, the history is alive in the walls of the buildings which still stand and in the families who can't think of calling any place but Fairview home.