

Sunday, August 11, 1929. **The Billings Gazette** Page Five

# BILLINGS KIWANIS IS NINE YEARS OLD

## LOCAL CLUB ACHIEVES NATIONAL DISTINCTION AS AN EFFICIENT BODY

Nine years ago this coming September a group of Billings business and professional men felt the need of some kind of organization which would tend to create and promote social, civic and community conditions. After a series of conferences Kiwanis was decided as the agency to bring about a closer and stronger relationship between business and professional men and the community they served.

**Second in State.**  
The Billings club was the second club organized in the state. It was established in 1920 with a membership of 50. The charter was formally presented on behalf of the Kiwanis International by Kiwanian Rev. James Thomas of the Denver, Colo., club at a banquet held at the Northern hotel on February 23, 1921.

**Create District in 1921.**  
The Montana district was created in August, 1921, at a convention held in Billings, following the Kiwanis International convention held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Since its inception the Billings Kiwanis club has worked on definite policies, following the motto of "We build," and in the course of several years has accomplished many of its plans and brought to fruition a number of its objectives.

**Brown First President.**  
The growth of the local club from a membership of a little over 50 to its present size has been one of steady and normal increase. Following preliminary organization work begun in September, 1920, the minimum of 50 members was soon secured and on October 16, 1920, Rockwood Brown was elected and took office as the club's first president. At the same time Peter Yeggen, Jr. was elected to the post of secretary.

Early in 1921 George E. Small was elected and served the first full term as president of the local body. Al Behlender took over the office of secretary. Both members are still active in Kiwanis affairs.

**First presidents of the local club are:** Rockwood Brown, 1920; George E. Small, 1921; Dr. Ed W. Thayer, 1922; J. H. McElroy, 1923; Lester Punth, 1924; Marion Dietrich, 1925; Ray E. Walker, 1926; Erwood Kuschke, 1927; Bert K. Strupp, 1928. Edwin Grafius is now serving as president.

During the 1923 organization activities in Billings, progress was favorably commented upon by Kiwanis

## KIWANIS SIGN LOCATES ROAD



More than 60 similar signs were posted on roads entering Billings to make traveling easier.

International. With the organization of the Montana district, local activities were broadened in scope. Two Billings Kiwanians have served as governors of the Montana district. They are G. E. Small and M. C. Dietrich. The present governor, W. E. Pierce, could also be claimed by the Billings club, as he was a charter member of the local organization prior to his transfer to Butte.

## PUBLIC FOUNT WELCOME GIFT



Three fountains, as pictured above, have been installed by the local club at busy street intersections of Billings.

C. A. Needy students have been aided by the club with loans which have

## KIDDIES AT SUNSHINE CAMP TO ENTERTAIN VISITING KIWANIAN

Convivial sessions are to be held by children of the Kiwanis Sunshine camp on Duck creek, where play, written, acted and directed by the Sunshine kiddies. It was removed Saturday by officials charge of the camp.

Kiwanians are to inspect the camp Monday afternoon following adjournment of the opening day's session. The district convention, arrangements have been made to provide transportation for all visitors to and in the camp, which is located about 15 miles southwest of Billings.

**"Y" SECRETARY HONORED.**  
A Kiwanian, Thomas Wilson, recently presented with the first annual achievement award to be given by the League, Ohio Journal for most noteworthy service to the community during the year 1928. He is a Y. M. C. A. secretary.

**REGISTRATION DOUBLES.**  
Fifty-five delegates were present at the Butte convention. More than twice that number have registered for the 1929 session.

enabled them to continue their school work. Rural districts have not been neglected in this respect. The club in the past has given scholarships to Billings business training institute to winners of rural school scholarship contests and have been prominent in affixing better rural schools

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