

RESOURCES OF BROADWATER COUNTY

In the Year 1967

By

Lee Hart

Lee Hart

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Preface

"Resources of Broadwater County" is a comprehensive study of the human and physical resources of Broadwater County, Montana. It is designed to provide information usable as guidelines for such individuals as County Extension Agents, Conservation personnel, and many others, who may find it necessary to gain a quick understanding and background of the area. The information describes principally the situation of today, but also takes a look into some of the past, as well as the future.

United States Department of Agriculture agencies and other public service personnel should find the information helpful in the planning of work programs, particularly if these individuals are relatively new to the area. Upon the acceptance of the report by the graduate committee, copies will be supplied to all U.S.D.A. and other public service offices of Broadwater County, the County Library, and to any individuals who may desire such.

"Resources of Broadwater County" should serve as a reference for a period of not more than five years (1967 - 1972), hence at the end of this period of time, I would recommend that the report be updated to reflect whatever changes have taken place, and the apparent trends at that time.

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HISTORY

County Origin

"On March 1, 1897, Broadwater County was formed by an act of the State Legislature. Broadwater was formed from portions of Meagher and Jefferson Counties, located in west central Montana and being one of the younger counties in the state."¹

The Missouri River passes through the center of the county, and its valleys reach from the southern to the northern boundaries, a distance of about 50 miles in length. The Elkhorn Mountains on the west and the Big Belt Mountains on the north and east form a natural pattern for the county boundary lines. Between these mountain ranges lies the Missouri River Valley, with some of the finest farming land in Montana. This area is favored with many mountain streams, springs and the Missouri River itself for irrigation in the principal parts of the valley. The county is noted for many prominent and early day settlers, who were attracted to the area in the early 60's by mining interests. In these early days mining was probably more actively engaged in, than farming and cattle raising, but today agriculture is the stable industry.

Towns

Townsend, the county seat and the principal town in the county, has existed since 1883. At that time the old town of Centerville on

¹"Townsend Star", (Newspaper), May 10, 1907, (Information relating to history).

the Missouri River was moved to the present location of Townsend on the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad, thereafter the town of Centerville ceased to exist and the new town of Townsend was named after an official of the railroad. With the arrival of the railroad in 1883, the town grew rapidly, due to its location in the center of the mining, farming and stock raising area.² "Today, Townsend has a population of approximately 1,500"³ and is the educational, financial and social center of the county.

Toston is a small town on the Missouri River, 11 miles south of Townsend, and was the shipping point for the mining town of Radersburg.⁴ The population of Toston is less than 100 people, and consists of a post office, one store, and one saloon, besides the few residences.

One of the early mining settlements of the county, Radersburg, is located 20 miles southwest of Townsend. "Radersburg was originally the county seat of Jefferson County when it became part of Broadwater in the land transfer from Jefferson to create Broadwater County in 1897. Radersburg was named in honor of Rueben Rader, one of the early pioneers."⁵ Radersburg is now nearly deserted, with a population of approximately 100 people.

²Ibid.

³Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's Annual Report, June, 1962 and 1964.

⁴"Townsend Star", op.cit.

⁵Ibid.

The town of Winston which is 13 miles north of Townsend, was named for the Winston brothers who migrated to Montana from Virginia, after the Civil War. It became another shipping point for the mining industry in the vicinity nearby.⁶ At the present time Winston is little more than a roadside stop, with about 50 residents.

Lombard lies approximately 20 miles south of Townsend, and is almost non-existent, with no one presently residing there.

Extension Service

Extension work started in Broadwater County in the year of 1933, the names of Extension Agents serving the county and their terms are as follows:⁷

*Ralph E. Ward - December 1, 1933 - October 15, 1935
 *Waldo G. Zirnstein - October 16, 1935 - April 30, 1946
 *C. W. Vaughn - May, 1946 - June 10, 1947
 No agent - June 11, 1947 - April 6, 1949

Edward J. Garnett - April 11, 1949 - April 9, 1954
 Stanley W. Howard - July 1, 1954 - November 30, 1956
 *William J. Cutler - June 18, 1946 - September 7, 1956
 Frank A. Carter - December 22, 1958 - July 1, 1961
 +Frank A. Carter - January 1959 - July 1960

+Wayne D. Gibson - July 1, 1961 - May 1, 1962
 +Victor L. Hoxsey - May 1, 1962 - July 1, 1962
 Resigned July 1, 1963

Lee Hart - July 1, 1963

*Jointly with Lewis and Clark County
 #County Agent at Large
 +Jointly with Meagher County

⁶Ibid.

⁷Annual Reports. Broadwater County Extension Service, Townsend, Montana, 1933-1966.

COUNTY SIZE

The overall total acreage of the county is listed as 766,720. The acres of cultivated land is 21,826; while the acres of irrigated land totals 39,474. Forest acres total 50,831 and the range land amounts to 408,515 acres. Cities, roads, etc., take out of agricultural use 6,415 acres.⁸

POPULATION

The population has not varied much over a 30-year period. The 1930 census shows there were 2,738 people; 1940 - 3,451; 1950 - 2,522; and 1960 - 2,804. There are at the present time approximately 1,509 men and 1,295 women in the county, with 54 percent of them living in Townsend. In 1960 there were only ten other counties with fewer people than Broadwater. Also in 1960, 691 families were living in the county.⁹

LABOR FORCE AND WAGE RATES

The total labor force in the county amounts to 1,508 at the present time, with the number of unemployed and under-employed ranging at about 124. The reasons for unemployment and under-employment are due mostly to the seasonal timber work, and seasonal farm and ranch

⁸Montana Agriculture Statistics, Montana Department of Agriculture, Volume IV - IX.

⁹United States Census Data-1960, Montana, Broadwater County.

work. Average prevailing wage for unskilled labor ranges from a low of \$.90 to a high of \$2.50/hr., skilled labor ranges from a low of \$1.50/hr. to a high of \$4.00/hr.¹⁰

FACILITIES

Education

Broadwater is one of the few remaining counties that is served by a county-wide high school. In 1963 a \$430,000 addition was made at the high school, and at this time the facilities are excellent.

The Townsend elementary school is a fairly new structure, having been built in 1950, and is now operating at full capacity for the space available. In the past, the rural areas have been served by four grade schools. In the year 1964-65, the Winston school closed due to an insufficient number of students; Radersburg for the same reason in 1965-66. Those still operating include Toston with three teachers, and Crow Creek, two teachers.

"The total enrollment for the rural elementary schools totals 104 pupils, the overall enrollment of the elementary schools in the county total 401. There are 227 students in the county high school.

¹⁰Unemployment Compensation Committee (Interview), Helena, Montana, (Information relating to employment, wages, etc.).

with no private or parochial schools in the county. The county is served by six school buses, which transport students to and from two of the rural schools, as well as the elementary and high school in Townsend."¹¹

At the present time, Mrs. Paul (Ruth) Carson, is the County Superintendent of Schools and under her jurisdiction are a total of 628 students in the schools of Broadwater County. There is a total of 848 school age children that are between the ages of 5 and 18 years.¹²

There are no junior, 4-year colleges, or universities in the county. Of those who do attend college, the ratio is pretty well divided between Montana State University at Bozeman, Western Montana College of Education at Dillon, Carroll College in Helena, and the University of Montana at Missoula. In the past few years there has been a steady increase in the number of students from this county going on to college, in 1961 - 10 students, 1962 - 13, 1963 - 14, 1964 - 22, 1965 - 25, and in 1966 - 26. Those continuing on in what would be considered a vocational - technical training school have ranged from about four to six students each year.¹³

¹¹Office of Broadwater County Superintendent of Schools, (Interview), (Information related to schools, education, etc.)

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid.

Cultural Facilities

Broadwater County is served by one county library, which is housed in the basement of the county court house, in Townsend. In 1962, the library received a complete revamping, additional bookshelves were added and an additional room was put into use. New painting and new lighting fixtures created a better atmosphere. An active Library Board attempts to keep the library as up-to-date as finances will permit.

In addition to this, the county has recently entered into an agreement with Lewis & Clark and Madison Counties for the use of a bookmobile. Through such the county has access to more and better books than could be provided formerly. Contacts are maintained with the State Extension Library with as much use as possible made of such. There are few other cultural facilities available in the county.

A very limited collection of museum items is maintained at the court house. Recently, interest has been high among several individuals in regard to establishing a museum for the county. It is known that a considerable number of items of historical value in the area would be available for such a collection, but the limiting factor has been the lack of necessary funds and a building to bring a museum into reality. This is a community project that should receive added attention within the near future.

Religious and Related Activities

Townsend proper includes six churches: Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and Latter Day Saints. Toston has two churches: Catholic and Methodist. Radersburg has a Methodist church. The Followers of Christ meet in members' homes throughout the county. County wide, there are 16 adult and youth groups affiliated with these different churches and religions. Three of the churches in Townsend proper are new buildings within the last three years, and a fourth one is presently under construction.

According to the Townsend Market Survey, the majority of the residents feel they are moderately or highly satisfied with the churches.¹⁴

Recreational Facilities

It is felt that recreation potentials are unlimited in Broadwater County. In looking at the long range 20-year plan of the area from the Regional Forest Service Office, it is stated that recreation is the one phase that will show a steady increase in demands for revenue and work load, until it will by far out-weigh all other phases of forest service emphasis.¹⁵

¹⁴Townsend Market Area Survey, Montana Cooperative Extension Service, Bulletin 1045, June 1966.

¹⁵U. S. Forest Service Long Range Plan, Helena National Forest, Townsend District, 1965.

Hunting and fishing facilities are a big attraction in the county. There is an open season each year for big game hunting of deer and elk. Approximately 100 antelope permits are also available.

Canyon Ferry Lake forms a natural bird refuge for thousands of ducks and geese. Goose hunting is a very popular sport in the area each fall. Pheasants are predominate in numbers throughout the county, plus many other species of upland game birds. Broadwater County has one of the very few existing wild turkey populations, where an open season is held each year.

Many small streams throughout the county are noted for fishing as well as the Missouri River and the large lake formed by Canyon Ferry dam. Winter fishing through the ice on the lake is a very popular sport.

During the summer, boating is also very popular, as well as fishing and water skiing that goes along with such. Recreational facilities around the lake, such as camp grounds and boat docks are very limited. The lack of trees and beautification is the main reason for the lack of recreational facilities being developed to the full potential. Several cold water lakes in the surrounding mountain areas usually offer good fishing for those who are willing to hike or pack to them.

With the creation of the new Montana Outdoor Recreation Department, Townsend residents were quick to jump on the band wagon, for they received the first grant in all of the N.W. States, of

matching Recreation-Conservation funds available for development of recreational facilities. This amounted to \$67,000 which went toward the construction of a new swimming pool, wading pool, picnic facilities, playground equipment, and complete landscaping, which overall forms Townsend's newly developed city park. This park (even though a city project) will fulfill a long overdue need for such facilities to all residents of the county, as well as being a fine tourist attraction.

The demand for winter recreation facilities has been expanding by leaps and bounds. The residents of Townsend along with the assistance of the Forest Service have within the last couple of years, developed an adequate ski run on the base of Grassy Mountain, near the Deep Creek highway. Skiing has become popular almost overnight and attracts many residents from the nearby city of Helena, as well as many of the other smaller towns in the surrounding counties. This slope offers the best skiing facilities for the city of Helena; thus, there is a need for further development of this enterprise.

The Grassy Mountain ski slope affords further development but on a limited basis. It could never reach the potential of accommodations available at many of the larger ski runs around the state. Aside from this, there is a possibility in a second site selection, whereby the Forest Service knows it would offer at least two weeks additional skiing time in the spring, as well as being a more expansive ski area. This one winter sport with proper development of the area

could attract hundreds of additional ski enthusiasts into the county. This would have a tremendous effect and bearing on the overall economy of the area.¹⁶

Other recreational facilities in the county are two city parks in the Townsend area, and the newest and proudest addition to the county, the Townsend Rodeo grounds. In 1964, Townsend experienced its first rodeo it had held in many, many years, which proved to be a tremendous success as well as a big boom to the community. Plans are to develop further the rodeo grounds, to include fair ground facilities, which could someday host stock shows, horse races, as well as the annual rodeo.

The Townsend Market Area Survey illustrated that 70 percent of the residents considered the public parks, play grounds and general city appearance of Townsend to be "fair" or "good". The parks, play grounds, etc., are acceptable to the majority of the residents, but about one-fifth (1/5) of the survey respondents gave these facilities a "poor" or "very poor" rating. The lowest rating was given by those respondents in the retired and professional groups of people.¹⁷

Accommodations for tourists coming into the county are still somewhat limited. At the present time, this consists of two hotels, and four motels, two of which are new.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Townsend Market Area Survey, op. cit.

Entertainment

The entertainment in Townsend has an "elderly" image. Seventy-one (71) percent of the respondents to the Townsend Market Survey, 60 years of age and over, report the entertainment in Townsend is "fair" or "good". In contrast, 77 percent of the 20 to 29 age bracket report the entertainment in Townsend as "poor" or "very poor".

Seventy-five (75) percent of the respondents rate the entertainment lower than "good". Townsend businessmen rate the entertainment higher than other occupational groups and the employees and professional tie for the lowest rating.¹⁸

The Townsend businessmen probably have more influence on what type of entertainment comes to Townsend than the employees and, because of the numbers involved, the older people probably have more influence than the younger people. If this assumption is true, the entertainment image in Townsend will not change without a change in attitude of these two groups. (They may actually be the same people.) Encouragement from the older citizens and the businessmen could attract the entertainment desired by employees, professional people, and the younger set. This effort along with others might attract people to live in Townsend, work in Helena and may help restructure the economy of Townsend in the next 35 years.

¹⁸Ibid.

Commercial

"Commercial facilities include three grocery stores, three cafes, one coffee shop, two department stores, two barber shops, two beauty shops, seven service stations, four hardware stores, one newspaper office, three auto sales with garage facilities, two insurance agencies, two law offices, two drug stores, and four farm machinery and implement dealerships. Recent additions include one new real estate office, and one auto parts store.¹⁹ Other commercial facilities that people feel would have potential would be a shoe repair shop and a dry cleaning establishment.

Health Service - Related Programs

Broadwater County is served by one county hospital, which has a 30 bed capacity. There are no clinics, but first aid services are available. The county health program consists of a doctor as the county health officer, but there is no county health nurse. The county doctor also serves as sanitarian and works in conjunction with the county health council. The county has the services of two doctors and one dentist, but no oculists. The county is served by one local veterinarian plus several neighboring veterinarians. The general consensus of the county health program seems to be that it is adequate, but could be greatly strengthened.

¹⁹Townsend, published by Townsend Chamber of Commerce, 1961.

The Broadwater Chapter of the American Red Cross is quite active within the county and conducts at least one or two Red Cross first aid courses each year. In addition to this they sponsor one or two individuals to an aquatic school each year, so the county always has qualified swimming instructors available. Swimming classes are conducted each summer for about 50 to 75 boys and girls, but the program in the past has been greatly hampered by lack of proper facilities, with classes being conducted at one of the safer areas along the lake.

The Extension Homemakers have sponsored the Medical Self Help classes during the past year, having provided the training for some 145 individuals. Their long range goal is to reach one member of every family in the county with the training.

A complete new sewage and water system has been installed in the town of Townsend within the last five years.

In 1964 a new underground street drainage system was installed for the drainage of main street. This has the capacity for handling all of the other streets in Townsend if and when development is desired.

The relationships of Extension to the county health program would be mainly through the education of the people in trying to stimulate interest and desire in having cleaner facilities, and upgraded living conditions. The Townsend Mosquito Control District is centered around the Extension Service with the County Extension Agent serving on the Board of Supervisors.

Housing

Homes in the Townsend area are in general, quite good, with almost all having modern living facilities. Renting accommodations are very limited, but usually adequate to meet the demand. The 1960 Census Data shows that of the 691 families living in the county, 608 married couples own their own households.²⁰

County Rest Home

The old county rest home, being inadequate to suffice the needs of the elderly citizens, was sold to the Bureau of Reclamation. The newly proposed one met the approval of the voters at a special bond issue election and cost \$130,500 for a 17 bed unit. This facility has the capacity of handling expansion up to a 31 bed unit.

Public Utilities

Electrical and Communication

Montana Power Company and the Vigilante Electric Cooperative serve all the power needs of the county. Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company serves nearly all the county with direct distance dialing phone service. The county is completely served by telephone and there are no telephone toll areas. Post offices are located at Townsend, Toston, Winston and Radersburg. Rural areas are also covered by rural free delivery. The outgoing and incoming mail

²⁰United States Census Data-1960, op. cit.

of the county is served by both bus and railroad, there is no direct air mail service out of Townsend. The county is covered by one weekly newspaper, "The Townsend Star", daily papers carried by most residents are the "Great Falls Tribune", "Helena Independent", and the "Montana Standard". Broadwater has no radio or TV stations, but does receive coverage supplied by stations at Great Falls, Butte, and Helena. Additional radio coverage is received from Bozeman and Belgrade. Poor radio reception is received from local stations at night. Extension Service participates in a weekly TV program from Butte.

Transportation

Broadwater County is well supplied with transportation facilities. East-west traffic travels on U. S. Highway No. 12 (formerly State Highway No. 6) which goes through Townsend and courses east along Deep Creek Canyon to White Sulphur Springs, Montana and across Montana to points east. State Highway No. 287 is the north-south road known as the Park to Park Route (Yellowstone to Glacier) which starts at the junction of Interstate 90 near Three Forks, Montana. Adequate rural roads cover the county with a high percentage paved or improved.

Two railroads service the county. The Northern Pacific follows the Missouri River north to Toston, Montana where it almost parallels State Highway 287 to the northern edge of the county at Claysoil (Louisville). The Milwaukee road traverses the southern part of the county.

Bus lines serving the county include: Greyhound Lines, Canyon Lines, and the Northern Pacific. Near Townsend is an airport equipped with 4,000 feet of seal coat asphalt. Helena, 35 miles to the north is the closest city served by scheduled commercial airline service. Numerous motor freight truck lines pass through the county.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

General

The financial situation of Townsend is considered to be good, even though the small city has started an extensive building and improvement program. The income within the county is good at the present, however, land prices and operating costs are high. The indebtedness is on the increase in many cases, as units (farms) are being sold at very high prices, and only part payments are being made. It is estimated that over 50 percent of the farms in the county have real estate debts on their property. Ranchers are selling for as high as \$700 per animal unit, and this situation brings about a poor return on the investment capital.

Results taken from the Townsend Market Survey indicate that more than one-fourth (1/4) of the residents have a gross income of \$9,000 or over. This high income reflects the gross income from the farm sector. Forty (40) percent of the respondents have a gross income under \$5,000 and 20 percent have less than \$3,000. The lowest income bracket includes the retired segment of the population.²¹

²¹Townsend Market Area Survey, op. cit.

Credit

Broadwater County is served by only one in-county bank, The State Bank of Townsend, but in addition to this, a considerable amount of banking business is handled through firms in Bozeman and Helena. The Townsend bank does not have an agricultural advisor, but does make small agricultural loans, plus, they now process loans for the Federal Housing Administration. Even though it is a reasonably small bank it is felt that within the past couple of years, there has been almost a complete renovation of the banking operation, which has resulted in a remarkably better attitude towards agricultural loans, and the support of the whole community.

Production Credit facilities are administered through offices in Helena and Bozeman, which along with Broadwater, take in about a six county area, and is called the Gallatin Production Credit Association. The Farmers Home Administration is administered through a Helena office, with representatives traveling to the county on a regular weekly schedule. There are no credit unions or short term loan companies operating in the county, other than some of the local insurance companies, which operate strictly on a personal clientele basis.

In general the governmental financial situation in the county seems very good, the county itself has been operating quite successfully with head above water for several years. The financial situation of the schools could be considered good in part of the county and only

fair in other parts. Many of the rural schools are older structures that are in need of improvement.

Welfare

It is felt that Broadwater County is quite fortunate in having very few welfare, or relief cases. At the present time, there are four families of women with children receiving benefits, 22 who apply under the old age assistance, and six under aid to the disabled. General relief cases average two to three annually.²²

In total this is the extent of the welfare program for the county. The trend has been constant for several years, with no foreseeable changes or alterations in the future. Percentage wise the number of welfare cases for Broadwater County is far below many of the surrounding areas of the state.

Taxation

The following information is taken from the Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's Report, along with the taxes levied in 1966:²³

²²Office of Broadwater County Welfare, (Interview), (Information related to Welfare).

²³Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's Annual Report, op. cit.

1966 Taxes Levied in Broadwater County

<u>Purpose of Fund Levied</u>	<u>Amount of Taxable Valuation</u>	<u>Mills Levied</u>	<u>Amount of Levies</u>
General Fund	4,799,630.00	17.8	85,561.39
Road Fund	4,048,485.00	2.24	9,042.91
Poor Fund	4,799,630.00	3.84	18,398.52
Bridge Fund	4,799,630.00	.31	1,452.12
Library	4,799,630.00	.77	3,677.20
Greater Univ. Millage Funds		5.50	28,327.68
State Livestock Funds (all)		22.00	5,146.74
General School Funds		24.00	115,416.98
Special High School		28.29	136,517.15
Town of Townsend		75.687	52,337.99
Mosquito		2.00	1,505.61
Rest Home Bond		2.20	11,937.73
Soil Conservation District		.25	485.75
Rodent Control		.25	485.76
Noxious Weed Control		2.00	3,866.03

INDUSTRY

Industry outside of agriculture is quite limited, with the exception of lumber. During the period from early settlement to 1955 the timber harvest in Broadwater County was small. Maximum volume harvested on both private and public lands during this period was approximately 1/2 million board feet. Approximately five to ten workers were engaged in the timber industry during this period and the lumber was sold mainly for local use.

The year 1955, when the Townsend Lumber Company was founded, was the turning point for the timber industry in this area. At the present, approximately 100 people are directly affected. The annual production, in the county, is about 10 million board feet per year. Of this total, approximately 8 million board feet come from public

lands.²⁴ Some of the timber that is processed in Broadwater County comes from neighboring counties. "Growth studies indicate a sustained yield harvest of approximately 6 million board feet in Broadwater County."²⁵

Mining still continues, with the most recent development being the Marietta mine, located fifteen miles from Townsend. This mining company installed a new mill two years ago and is now milling 15 tons of ore daily with a capacity of 300 tons. Principal metal from the Marietta is gold, with some silver and lead.

Three years ago Broadwater County accumulated a vast amount of surplus alfalfa hay. With this being the situation, an alfalfa pelleting plant set up in the county on a temporary basis, and did a fine business for nearly a year, until the volume of hay was depleted. As the price of hay fluctuates from year to year, there may be opportunity for such a pelleting plant or dehydrating plant in the community at a later date.

One of the most recent industrial ideas to come before the spotlight is that of a fish hatchery, at the big spring south of Toston. This spring flows approximately 600 inches of water year in and year out, and the temperature of the water never varies. The water is owned by the water users of the Big Spring Ditch Association, which desires some added revenue.

²⁴Montana Agriculture Statistics, op. cit.

²⁵U. S. Forest Service Long Range Plan, op. cit.

Several years ago, the possibility of a fish hatchery for this spring was investigated and at that time the water was determined to be within 1° of what is considered an ideal temperature for such. At that time negotiations could not be reached, but now the whole idea is being revitalized. If such were to come about, it could mean the addition of anywhere from 5 to 20 families in the county.

ORGANIZATIONS

Extension

Homemakers

At the present time there are four active home demonstration clubs in the county, and a newly organized home demonstration council. Two of the clubs are within the Townsend proper, one in the agricultural area east of Townsend, and the fourth in the agricultural area south of Townsend. Three of these clubs were organized within the past year, and are having their difficulties keeping interested and organized. There is probably a sufficient number of clubs in the areas covered to accommodate those who desire the program.

Another area which is not covered by home demonstration clubs, where there may be a future possibility of organizing one, is Winston. The home demonstration program has been operating in the county since 1962, but because the program is still new, it leaves many things to be desired. Although there will never be opportunity to support a full time home economics agent in the county, a part time agent or one of temporary tenure, would be a tremendous asset to the program.

Either way, in the future years it will be necessary for a county agent to devote much time to the home demonstration program to keep it actively organized and the women interested.

4-H Programs

At the present time, there are seven 4-H clubs in the county, with an overall enrollment of approximately 110 members. In addition to this, the county is blessed with an active leaders council comprised of about 18 to 20 leaders, and an even more active junior leaders organization. The 4-H council has been organized since 1935, while the junior leaders group is a more recent effort, having just started in 1964. Revenue for the council is derived mostly from an annual bake sale and food basket raffle, plus rent from a homemade tree planter constructed in 1965. Much of the council money goes towards sponsorship of a 4-H awards banquet held each fall. The junior leaders' main interest as an organization, is to participate in a trip exchange every other year, having started in 1965 with one to Canada.

Potential of additional 4-H clubs in the county should be at least one or two. There is some additional interest by boys and girls around Townsend, but the number of clubs mainly hinges around the population which has not shown any substantial increases in several years. In general, interest and support toward the 4-H program is quite high throughout the county and the more the program can be improved, the more children it will eventually involve. With many of the leaders being quite new at the role, leader training will be most important in the next few years. Through the use of better trained

leaders and more involvement of the junior leaders, most of the 4-H activities in the county can be made more meaningful and purposeful.

Other

Main service groups in the community include: Rotary, Jaycees, Jayceens, and the Townsend Chamber of Commerce. Youth organizations other than 4-H clubs include Scouts and church groups. Farm organizations include the Farm Bureau, and the Farmers Union, both of which have been functioning for a number of years and are still quite active today. Special designated areas in the county include the Broadwater Soil and Water Conservation District, which comprises 535,000 acres and was organized in 1945.²⁶ This District is considered to be one of the more active districts in the state. The Broadwater County Weed Control District was organized in the spring of 1965. The Townsend Mosquito Control District includes 960 acres surrounding the proper of Townsend, and is actively engaged each summer. One irrigation district is presently organized, the Crow Creek District south of Toston, which is supplied with water from the Missouri River.

The Whitetail Grazing Association, is one of the newest designated areas organized, but this case is not comprised of any land within the county. The Whitetail grazing range itself is located in Meagher County, but is about 80 percent owned by ranchers in Broadwater County.

²⁶Broadwater Conservation Needs Inventory, United State Soil Conservation Service, 1961.

The range when it reaches its potential in development will accommodate about 2400 head of cows. This \$672,000 purchase will be a valuable asset to the Broadwater ranchers in the future.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Most of the organized efforts towards community development or improvement have stemmed around the organized Rural Area Development Program, but not all projects can be directly correlated with RAD.

Since its organization, the other clubs and groups in the county have closely operated on the RAD principle. Organizations within the Townsend area which could be considered planning groups include: Rodeo and Fair Board, Chamber of Commerce, Ski Club, Townsend Womens Club and Townsend Garden Club. RAD Committees also have available a complete list of organizations in the county (109) which includes the officers, and meeting nights of the various groups. These listings are available through the County Extension Office, but need to be revised annually.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND RESOURCES

Topography

The surface features of Broadwater County, as in other counties in central Montana, are largely the result of volcanic and dynamic forces, which produced the mountain ranges, and the subsequent erosion and deposition of sediment material on the mountain slopes and in the intermountain basin.

The more prominent physiographic features of the county are the Big Belt Mountains, its main divide forming the boundary between Broadwater and Meagher Counties. Their average elevation is over 7,000 feet above sea level with the higher peaks such as Mount Baldy and Edith rising to 9,600 feet. The Big Belt Mountains cover 364 square miles in Broadwater County and the more rugged timbered sections are included in the Helena National Forest.

The Elkhorn Mountains occupy a large area in the northwestern part of the county. These mountains have about the same average elevation as that of the Big Belts. The Elkhorn Mountains cover 187 square miles in the county and the timbered sections are included in the Helena National Forest.

The intermountain basin known as the "Townsend Basin" between the Elkhorn and Big Belt Mountains are the site of an inland lake formed during prehistoric ages. The water accumulated behind the mountain uplifts before the Missouri River cut its present channel through the mountains to the north. The lake covered the basin to a great depth, and sediments were deposited over its entire area which included the tablelands, benchlands, gently rolling lands and stream valleys. This intermountain basin covers half or about 665 square miles of the county.

All of the large streams in the county empty directly into the Missouri River. Most of the smaller streams have a continuous flow in the mountains, but in the intermountain basin their water sinks into stream gravels and sand during the later summer and fall.

The Missouri River enters the county through a deep gorge and flows north meandering through a poorly-drained stony flood plain 1 to 2 miles wide. North of Townsend it becomes impounded to form Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Lake Townsend). This reservoir extends into the northern part of the county and after its water is withdrawn during the late summer the bottom of the lake is a mud flat.

Elevations vary from 3,660 at the river basin to 9,600 feet. The largest portion of agricultural land in the county lies between the approximate elevations of 3,800 to 5,000 feet above sea level.²⁷

Climate

Broadwater County has comparatively low rainfall, great extremes of temperature, a high proportion of sunny days, and low humidity. High summer temperatures are not oppressive because of the low humidity and nights are usually cool.

Winter temperatures are tempered by warm southwest winds. During the winter seasons there usually are a few invasions of cold arctic air that drop temperatures well below zero. Usually these cold periods last only a few days. Snow and blowing sometimes accompany these cold air invasions, but this type of storm condition usually exists only for one to three days. Winter months are usually driest in the valleys, but the mountains accumulate considerable snow during the December-March period.

²⁷ Broadwater County Soil Survey Handbook, United States Soil Conservation Service, 1957.

The normal mean annual precipitation ranges from about 11 inches in the valley to 23 inches in higher mountains. The rainfall increases with the elevation and on the high tablelands that includes much of the dryland farming and rangeland, the precipitation is about 14 inches.

Approximately 65 percent of the total precipitation is received between April 1 and September 1. The greater part of the summer rainfall is obtained from small locally scattered showers. May and June are the months of greatest rainfall. The average annual snowfall in the lower areas of the county is between 23.5 and 28.1 inches.²⁸

Frost free period at Townsend averages 116 days and varies according to elevation and slope in other parts of the county. In most sections of Montana east of the Continental Divide, the southern and eastern slopes of the mountains have, at the same elevation, a lower rainfall and higher temperatures than the northern and western slopes. The mountains and canyons have an influence on the paths of local storms and on air drainage; consequently, some localities in the Townsend Basin have longer frost-free seasons and less hail damage than other localities.

Listed on the following page is a condensed summary of precipitation and temperature data at the Townsend stations, and those stations located near Broadwater County boundaries.

²⁸ Water Resource Survey, Broadwater County, Montana State Engineers, Helena, 1956.

Stations	Nrs. of Record	Average Annual Temp.	High	Low	Average Annual Precip.	Wettest Year	Driest Year
Townsend	8	42.8 <u>1/</u>	100	-32	10.60 <u>1/</u>	14.74(1948)	8.63(1953)
" 9 ESE Canyon	13	42.9 <u>2/</u>	103	-43	11.53 <u>2/</u>	18.70(1941)	9.32(1945)
Ferry Dam	7	43.6 <u>4/</u>	98	-33	12.44 <u>4/</u>	15.91(1955)	10.74(1950)
Canyon Ferry	51	43.9 <u>3/</u>	104	-41	11.40 <u>3/</u>	17.43(1947)	6.01(1919)
Trident	19	45.4 <u>5/</u>	105	-36	13.21 <u>5/</u>	17.25(1941)	9.39(1954)

Periods of Records: 1/ 1948-1955; 2/ 1935-1945; 3/ 1931-1949;
4/ 1949-1955.

Wind direction and velocities are variable. However, the winds are generally from the southwest in the southern part of the county and from the northwest in the northern part of the county; with the greatest velocities recorded in the late winter and early spring. Chinook winds prevent the accumulation of much snow in the lower part of this inter-mountain basin. Extreme high winds and tornadoes are almost unknown.²⁹

Soils

The character of soils is determined by plant material, topography, vegetation, and climate. About 45 percent of Broadwater County is included in the Belt and Elkhorn Mountains. The remainder of the area consists of outwash materials of the Tertiary Age and recent alluvial deposits in the stream valleys. The bedrock materials in the mountains and adjacent foothills include granite, basalts, limestone, argillites and quartzites.

²⁹ Montana Agricultural Census, op. cit.

Bottomlands

The bottomlands and stream terraces of Broadwater County are soil materials that have been deposited and reworked by water. Their parent materials consist of colluvial-alluvial tertiary and pleistocene materials washed down from the mountain slopes or surrounding area. Most of these soils are deep with some shallow overlying gravel. The texture of these soils are silt with some small areas of sandy loams, silty clay loams and clays. Because of limited rainfall, these soils lie in the brown soil zone. Most of this area is underlain by tertiary "Lake Beds".

Secondary Benches and Fans

The secondary benches and fans also lie within the brown soil zone. Most of the parent materials are tertiary and recent pleistocene origin. They have been washed down from the mountain slopes by colluvial-alluvial action. Some of the soils have developed from tertiary lake sediments and reworked by wind or else reworked and sorted by water. A few heavy soils may be found where there is outcroppings of marine shales of the cretaceous and tertiary age. Some of these outwash fans and aprons north of Townsend contain a high percentage of gravels and cobbles washed down from the mountains.

The larger percentage of rocks are quartzite and argillite, with varying amounts of igneous rocks included. These soils for the most part are deep soils having silt loams, some sandy loam, loamy sands and clay textures. Some of the wind deposits and sandy soils are more

subject to erosion. A large portion of this is underlain by the tertiary "Lake Beds". The limiting factor to most of these soils is moisture.

Rough Broken Lands

Most of the soils on these rough broken lands have poor development and are mostly shallow to parent materials; the larger portion being tertiary thin breaks. Other parent materials that can be found along bench edges are quarternary colluvial-alluvial materials washed down from mountain slopes. Their depths are complex ranging from deep to shallow with some outcroppings of parent materials. Gravels and rocks of various sizes and kinds cover a large extent of the area.

Soil textures are usually medium with some sandy loams. These soils fit either the silty or thin break range sites. Soils mapped on this topography will consist of a complex of different soil series and phases.

High Benches

Soils on the higher benches are similar to the soils on the lower benches. Most of these benches and fans lie at the footslopes of the Big Belt Mountains. There are a few small benches in the vicinity of Winston which are of glacial till origin. Most of the surface soils are very stony. Most of the rocks are argillite and quartzite with some of igneous origins. Because of their high rock content, most of these soils are used strictly for range land.

The benchland east of Townsend contains some of the best dry-land soils in the county. The dark brown soils cover the majority of this area with the inclusion of some brown and black.

Mountainous Area

The Big Belt Mountains are one of the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains. They were formed by a broad, folded-arched uplift which has been dissected to produce the saw-toothed ridges and deep intervening stream valleys. The rock out-crops in the mountains are largely Algonkian slated (argillitic shales) and quartzites with carboniferous limestones exposed on their western flanks in the northern and southern parts of the county. Mineralized areas occur in places in association with igneous intrusions. The main igneous intrusions are granites with some grandissite, monzonite, latite, diorite and gabbro. The Belt series includes Helena limestone, Empire, Spokane and Greyson shales, and Newland limestone. There are also some small mountain glaciated areas which have a good stand of timber.

In the Elkhorn Mountains the rocks exposed in the higher mountain sections are chiefly granites and andesites with metamorphosed sedimentary rocks of Algonkian age on their western slopes. Mineralized areas are found in the vicinity of Radersburg, Hassel, Winston and other places. Gold, silver, and lead ores are the chief products of the mines. Placer deposits have been worked in many of the mountain gulches. Along the Elkhorn Mountain range are some small areas of Cambrian and Cretaceous shales. Some small lateral or terminal moraines of mountain glaciated

materials also exist in these mountains. In both the Elkhorn and Belt Mountains, small channels and fans of colluvial-alluvial materials exist that have been washed down from the higher mountain slopes.

The majority of the glacial till or alluvial soils are deep medium textured soils; and the former being quite stony but having good moisture holding capacity. Soils along the mountain streams vary in depth, texture and wetness. These seeped soils are used extensively for grazing and have a high carrying capacity.

The more rugged section of the mountains consist of rock materials that have weathered to form a complex of both shallow and deep soils. The most extensive of the mountain soils are derived from argillitic shales, limestones and various igneous rock. These areas are very susceptible to erosion where the cover is removed. The water holding capacities are limited for the most part, and there is usually outcropping of bare rock and rounded boulders. The deeper soils are usually found in pockets and in the middle and at the foot of some of the mountain slopes. The more shallow soils predominate along ridges and near mountain peaks. The soil in general is medium textured and ranges in depth from deep to shallow with the shallow soils predominating.

A wide variation in precipitation exists over the mountain areas with evidence of this furnished to some degree by soil profile developments and plant cover characteristics.

Foothills

Geological materials of the foothills in Broadwater County are for the most part limestones, argillitic shales and some small areas of Cretaceous and Cambrian shales.

The developed soil mantle is of a complex depth with texture of materials in the medium range with exception of some heavy soils overlying Marine shales. These soils are of a complex depth with shallow soils predominating. This area by large is in the brown soil zone. With the exception of some, the smooth topography being under cultivation, these soils are used solely for grazing.³⁰

Water Resources

Some of the higher land cannot be reached except with dams and pumping plants. There is ample water for the existing irrigated land, however, there is generally an over abundance of water in the spring and a shortage later in the growing season.³¹

Increased interest is shown in developing irrigation systems by pumping underground water. Three producing wells in the Crow Creek area have pumping lifts of 50 to 100 feet from wells drilled approximately 200 feet.

The Bureau of Reclamation is currently investigating the feasibility of the Jefferson Unit Irrigation Project. If this project

³⁰Water Resource Survey, op. cit.

³¹Ibid.

is approved, it will almost double the irrigated land in the county and will supplement the pumping plant serving the Crow Creek Unit. The water will be taken from the Big Hole River and the proposed Reichle Reservoir and conveyed to Broadwater County by way of a canal and a retaining reservoir (Milligan). The project includes the construction of 97 miles of canal known as the Townsend Canal, and an additional 9 miles known as the Crow Creek Canal.³²

Grassland

Most of the grassland areas originally supported vigorous stands of perennial grasses such as Bluebunch wheatgrass, Green needlegrass, Idaho fescue, Rough fescue, Western wheatgrass, and other high producing grasses and forbs. Small amounts of plants such as Threadleaf sedge, Needle and thread, Sandberg bluegrass and associated species were evident. At the present time, there are large areas of rangeland that show the results of overgrazing in the past and consequently have very low forage production.

In overgrazed areas many of the original species have been replaced in varied degrees by less desirable species such as Needle and thread, Blue grama, Fringed sageword, Curly-cup gumweed, Rabbitbrush, Big sagebrush, Broom snakeweed, Prickly pear, and associated species.

³²Upper Missouri River Basin Area Report, Bureau of Reclamation, Missouri Projects Office, Great Falls, Montana, 1965.

On the wet and poorly drained land along the larger streams and within the small inter-mountain valleys, such plants as Kentucky bluegrass, Wiregrass, Slough grass, Rushes, Reeds and willows now make up a large portion of the vegetation.³³

Woodland

Two general factors have affected the woodland harvest in Broadwater County. First, occurrence of timber of merchantable size is characteristically confined to relatively small areas, thus limiting timber business to small operations on most private lands.

Secondly, the demand for timber has been limited because of relatively low quality of product available and the limited supply. Principle species are Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine. Douglas Fir has a ready outlet in the form of lumber, while Lodgepole Pine is less in demand.

Timberstands are usually more dense on the northern and eastern slopes. Besides Douglas Fir and Lodgepole Pine, some Engleman Spruce, Ponderosa Pine, Alpine Fir, White-bark Limber Pine, and Juniper are present in the county.

On Forest Service lands provisions are made to control erosion on sale areas. On private lands, better logging practices and erosion control are needed.³⁴

³³Broadwater Conservation Needs Inventory, op. cit.

³⁴Ibid.

Quaken Aspen occur on many of the steeped mountain slopes. Willows, choke cherries, service berries, and other shrubs form dense thickets in narrow stream valleys and lower canyon slopes. The understory in the heavily forested areas consists largely of forbs, a few shrubs and very few grasses. In the more open parkland areas, there is more grass and less shrubs. In the wetter areas, a hydrophytic type vegetation of sedges, mountain timothy, redtop and bluegrass are predominate.³⁵

AGRICULTURE

Irrigation

Irrigation developments have caused the greatest change in agriculture in the county. With the construction of Canyon Ferry Dam, there was much objection from local people to the effect that much good agricultural land would be flooded by the reservoir and this area taken off the tax rolls. Agreements were made to develop similar acreage elsewhere in the county. Thus, the Crow Creek Pumping Project was developed consisting of 5,020 acres. First delivery of water was made in 1955.

The Conservation Needs Report indicates that in 1958, 36,660 acres in Broadwater County was devoted to irrigated cropland. (This figure does not include irrigated native or permanent irrigated pasture.

³⁵U. S. Forest Service Long Range Plan, op. cit.

The types of agriculture on the large irrigated projects in the valley have been gradually changing from stock raising and hay production to more diversified farming. There has been an increase in the acreages of small grains, sugar beets, and potatoes being planted on irrigated grounds. These changes have been sporadic depending on markets. More recently, the trend is to irrigated pasture production.

Uncontrolled flooding is practiced on many irrigated farms; and has resulted in the water logging of much land as well as losses in crop production and soil fertility. In some areas increased salt accumulation has occurred. Modern harvesting equipment such as hay balers, combines, mechanical pickers, etc., are being used. Many of the crops are being raised on a contract basis.

A general trend toward improving irrigation efficiencies and conserving water is being practiced. More land is being leveled and irrigation systems are being improved to save water and to meet the need for the crops. In recent years sprinkler irrigation has been viewed with much interest.³⁶

Livestock

With the decline in rural population in the dryland farming sections since 1921, many stockmen are expanding their operations.

³⁶Broadwater Conservation Needs Inventory, op. cit.

as are some of the operators of grain and livestock farms in the irrigated districts. The better established livestock units operate 5 to 15 sections of land. Some of the units summer their stock on National Forests and on railway land-grant lands; and in the winter their herds are kept on home ranches which commonly include irrigated lands. Some of the stockmen operating on a small scale depend upon the open range for summer and winter grazing and during severe winter weather supplement grazing with commercial feeds or move their stock into the irrigated districts for grazing or feeding.

Winter feeding of livestock in the inter-mountain basin may consist of short feeding period between December and April. At the higher elevations more winter feeding is required.

Dryland Farming

The Conservation Needs Inventory for the county indicated that in 1958 there were 57,340 acres of tilled non-irrigated land. Wheat is the principal crop with some barley, oats and a very small amount of rye, corn and other crops being grown. Most of the crops are grown under a summer fallow type of farming with some strip cropping being practiced.

In some areas receiving higher moisture, alfalfa is grown. Also some fields of introduced grasses are grown with seed production in mind. Farm implements are leaving most of the crop residue on the surface of the ground for soil and water conservation, are being used.

The old custom of burning crop residue has been practically eliminated. Up to the present, moisture and growing season rather than soil fertility appear to be the limiting factors in dryland crop production.³⁷

Conservation Needs

Broadwater Conservation Needs Inventory, shows that out of 63,187 acres of dry cropland 30,287 acres are considered adequately treated, but 20,000 acres have erosion problems, correctable by such things as strip cropping, stubble mulching, grassed waterways, etc. On another 4,900 acres the predominant problems are unfavorable soil due to lack of crop rotation, fertilization, etc. Out of 37,501 acres of irrigated crop land 18,591 acres are considered adequately treated, while on 14,228 acres erosion is a problem, and 3,203 acres excessive water is a dominant problem.

Unfavorable soil conditions plague still another 11,530 acres. Grassland covers a total of 363,222 acres which includes range, pasture and irrigated grassland. Of this 166,095 acres are considered adequately treated, while the remaining 54 percent needs treatment such as re-seeding, improvement by deferred grazing, proper stocking and better distribution, water development, fire protection, erosion control, rodent control, encroachment of plant, or have an excess of water.

Under woodland about 38,535 acres are in need of one or more of the following - plant establishment, stand improvement, fire

³⁷Ibid.

protection, insect and disease control, protection from animals, erosion control, and about 400 acres or 50 miles in windbreak establishment. The work load for these conservation needs falls mainly upon the Broadwater Soil and Water Conservation District, but Extension is very important to such in carrying out the educational portion of these needs.³⁸

Land Control

Land Ownership

Listed below is the land ownership for the county based on the Public Lands Inventory prepared in 1962:

	<u>Acres</u>
Privately owned	489,176
State owned	24,509
Bureau of Land Management	65,280
Bureau of Reclamation	33,768 (28,000 water)
Forest Service	145,272
Urban areas	<u>8,670</u>
Total Area	766,675

Operation Units (Taken from Census of Agriculture Reports)³⁹

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number Operators</u>	<u>Full Owners</u>	<u>Part Owners</u>	<u>Managers</u>	<u>Tenants</u>	<u>Avg. Size of Farms Acres</u>
1920	466					653
1925	321					814
1930	328					1112
1935	337					945
1940	268					
1945	293	139	92	3	59	2021
1950	278	129	89	2	58	2083
1954	215	108	72	1	34	2590
1959	221	106	76	4	35	2099

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Montana Agricultural Statistics, op. cit.

The present number of farms and ranches operated in the county is between 195 and 200.

Major Enterprises

Types of Farming and Ranching

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1950</u>
Livestock farm other than dairy	118	119
Primary Crop	16	10
Cash-Grain	58	107
Crop and Livestock	31	22
Poultry	--	5
Miscellaneous	8	15

<u>Livestock (Number)</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1963</u>
Cattle & Calves	25,847	27,935	28,309	29,710	33,000
Milk Cows		1,053	679	567	6,000
Horses	2,479	1,141	684	654	
Hogs	3,556	1,645	1,193	1,560	1,400
Sheep	29,138	9,004	9,244	12,447	8,200
Chickens	19,948	11,669	11,332	8,664	7,900
Turkeys	1,429	513	10	6	
<u>Crops (Acres)</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1963</u>
Winter Wheat	7,048	14,499	15,549	20,200	7,500
Spring Wheat	12,979	5,961	5,327	5,900	14,000
Oats	5,249	5,320	2,302	3,700	2,900
Barley	3,028	6,110	5,090	11,800	10,200
Corn	4	--	--	400	1,100
Sugar Beets	1,756	264	375	880	2,105
Potatoes	85	1,415	375	350	196
Hay	27,513	25,386	23,575	23,700	27,500 ⁴⁰

Management Practices

There is a growing need for more education in farm and ranch management. This is probably the biggest item to come to the attention

⁴⁰Ibid.

of the farmers and ranchers in the area at the present. Most of these individuals operated in the past on the basis of, "as long as the bank balance exceeded the amount of money being paid out, they were okay". Generally, low agricultural prices in the past few years along with 20¢ calves, and \$1.20 wheat in 1964, have brought this situation to a head. Many now feel that they must change or improve their methods of operation in order to survive. It will be necessary in the future to devote considerable time in helping develop records, as well as a better understanding of up-to-date, modern, experimental and agriculturally proven methods of operation. If these individuals are to improve their farming and ranching situations it will require a substantial amount of assistance from Extension Economic Specialists and other expertly trained personnel.

Weed Control

Starting with the 1965 spraying season, the Broadwater Weed Control District was reactivated, and put into operation. The Weed Control Board handling the new program consists of three farmers from different areas in the county, with the County Extension Agent serving as secretary. To help the Board cope with difficulties that may arise and give essential backing to the operation, the five supervisors of the Broadwater Soil and Water Conservation District, serve as an advisory committee. Joe Moyer, local retired farmer was hired as operator and assistant help is furnished when needed by other available personnel. Although the spraying operation began in the spring of 1965, no actual

money was budgeted for the district until the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1965.

Weed control has been one of the most adverse agricultural problems facing the county for several years. The reactivated Weed Control District is the first such operation in thirteen years. Technical assistance and supervision from the County Agent and Extension Weed Specialist will be of extreme importance in keeping the district operating on a feasible and acceptable basis. Education on weed control will be a continuous and essential part of the work load each and every year to come. Due to the combined efforts of the weed control district and the educational means of the Extension Service, greater cooperation should be realized on weed control throughout the county, from the farmers and ranchers as well as the State Highway Department, and the railroads.

The most prominent weed problems consist of large infestations of Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, and Whitetop, with Leafy spurge in concentrated areas of the county. Two small infestations of Dalmatian toadflax were discovered in 1965. Burdock is a tremendous menace to the cattle industry and is well distributed in all parts of the county. Seventeen weed control test plots were put out in the fall of 1964, and several more should be established during the coming years. Information obtained from these test plots has served as valuable illustrations to farmers and ranchers of the area, as well as considerable backing for the weed control district.

COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIESSoil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service works with the Broadwater Soil Conservation District which comprises all the private land in Broadwater County. The staff consists of one Work Unit Conservationist and one engineer which is an inadequate number of employees to meet the work load demanded by the area.

Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation owns a considerable amount of land within the county, but does not office a local supervisory staff of workers. Most of the land responsibilities within the area are handled through the Great Falls office.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

This agency is officed in Townsend, and consists of one office manager, a clerk, and a county committee of three farmers. Participation in the program by the farmers and ranchers is considered to be quite high.

Farmers Home Administration

The County Supervisor, has his office in Helena, but offices in the ASCS office when in Townsend. The county committee consists of three local farmers and ranchers. Due to the limitations of the local bank, quite extensive use is made of the F.H.A. assistance.

Civil Defense Administration

County Directors for Civil Defense hold monthly meetings at the ASCS building but the main office is designated as the County Extension Office, in the basement of the court house. A complete county Civil Defense Plan has been prepared with copies available in any of the local U.S.D.A. agency offices. The public is in need of a tremendous amount of education making known the plans plus emergency preparedness.

Forest Service

The Townsend District of the Helena National Forest is administered through the Townsend office by a District Ranger. About three to four additional rangers are employed the year around with several more working during the summer.

Fish and Wildlife Service

One warden of the Montana Fish and Game Department serves the entire county. A district warden also presides in Townsend.

General

Fine cooperation and coordination is maintained between all of the agencies in the county. This greatly strengthens the work of each program and makes for much more accomplishment by the agencies.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

If changes in attitudes and progress within a variety of Montana communities had been measured during the past five years, I am sure that Townsend and the people of Broadwater County would have ranked somewhere near the top. With Townsend being the hub of the county, almost anything that takes place there is a reflection of the whole county.

Historically, Broadwater has been an agricultural area with the tax base subsequently controlled by the same. Thus all conservatism in the past has been principally blamed on the farmers. A review of the community activities, construction-wise, etc., over a period of some 20 years prior to the last four or five, shows that it was a very conservative-minded area. During this conservative period, agriculture and most other industries were controlled by what is looked at primarily as an "elderly" generation, which more recently has been fading out of the picture, being replaced by a younger, more liberal and progressive type of generation. During the period of so-called "elderly" control years - schools, churches, streets, roads, and recreation facilities remained almost the same. But at the same time, taxes remained relatively low, for which the elderly generation feels very proud.

To the contrast, the later few years have shown a sharp rise in taxes which have been accompanied with a construction boom of public facilities - better streets and roads, new water and sewage systems,

new churches, new schools, new health facilities, and new recreation facilities. All of this give the image of a very progressive type of people, a generation more vitally interested in the education and welfare of their children, along with ways of making better use of their leisure time (leisure time, I'm sure, that the "elderly" generation didn't have).

When a population of 2,000 people has within its midst 109 active organizations, it does not lack for busyness. This certainly is a sample of "over-organization", which can be most frustrating when trying to find an open evening to schedule an important meeting. On the other hand, the very low incidence of juvenile delinquency and crime in the area may be a direct result of "over-organization".

The low unemployment, the number of welfare cases even lower, and the average gross income high, indicate a quite stable industry and at least a moderate level of living for the area.

Another indication of high interest towards community betterment is the Market Area Survey sponsored by local businessmen to help determine how they might better serve and meet the needs of the people.

All in all, I feel Broadwater County presently consists of a very energetic class of people who, withstanding any unforeseen depressions or catastrophes in the area, should have no trouble keeping themselves recognized on the maps.

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