

# Montana Government

Chapters 20-22: Building a New  
Montana, A People's  
Constitution, and Living in a  
New Montana

# Ch. 20: Building a New Montana

## A Postwar Boom Sweeps the Nation

- U.S. emerged from WWII as a superpower: productive industries, world's most powerful military – and GI Bill boosted economy.
- After decade of limited access to food & goods due to war rationing, consumerism (idea that buying consumer goods benefits economy) became an economic strategy for the U.S.
- Baby boom: dramatic increase in number of babies born after WWII; created more economic activity – Americans needed new cars, houses, schools, stores, hospitals, strollers, refrigerators, etc.

# Montana Supplies the Great Boom

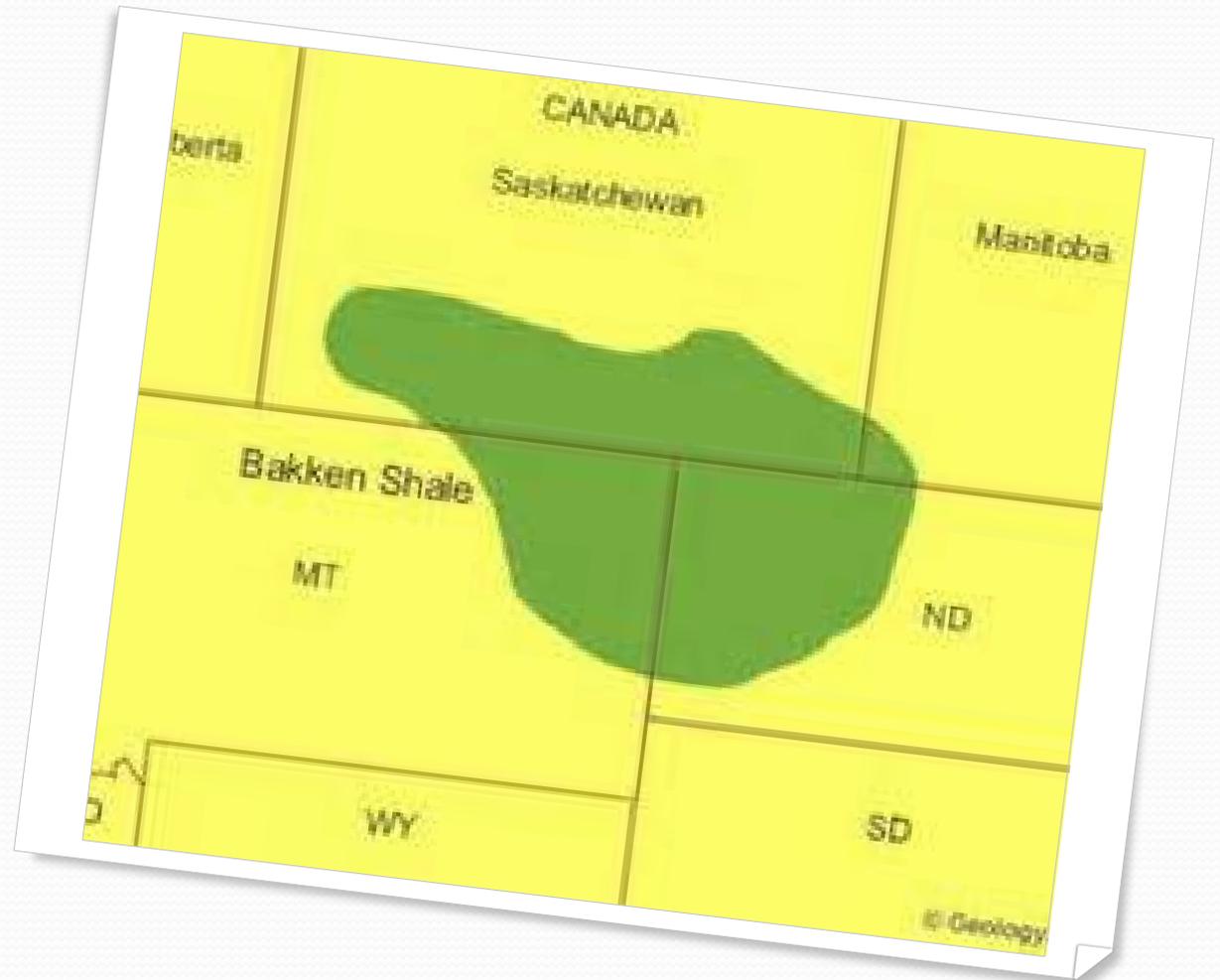
- **Lumber, plywood, etc. to build new houses & factories – timber towns like Missoula & Libby grew; new lumber mills opened, logging companies began conservation programs.**
- **Copper for telephone wires, plumbing, car engines.**
- **Aluminum for siding & kitchen foil – Anaconda Co. opened aluminum plant near Columbia Falls in 1955.**
- **Wheat & beef production rose to help feed the U.S.**
- **Montana oil fields expanded.**

# Montana Oil: Needed for gasoline, heating oil, machinery

- **Biggest Montana oil fields after WWII were Kevin-Sunburst, Cat Creek, & Elk Basin.**
- **1951: huge new oil field discovered at Williston Basin on Montana-North Dakota border doubled Montana's oil production – Glendive & Sidney boomed.**
- **Billings became center of Montana's oil business.**
- **Billings & Laurel refineries increased production: by 1957 oil earned more revenue than copper in Montana; by 1960, Montana was 12<sup>th</sup>-biggest oil-producing state in U.S.**

# The Williston Basin

Discovery of huge oil deposits in the Williston Basin & Bakken formation has led to a booming oil industry in Montana.



# Dam It! Power & Water

- Dams were needed for hydroelectric power & irrigation – also created jobs.
- First dam in Montana: Black Eagle Dam at Great Falls, 1890.
- Early 1930s-late 1960s: state & federal governments built 48 dams in Montana.
- Biggest was Ft. Peck Dam on Missouri River, 1939, second was Hungry Horse Dam on S. Fork of Flathead R. near Kalispell in 1953.

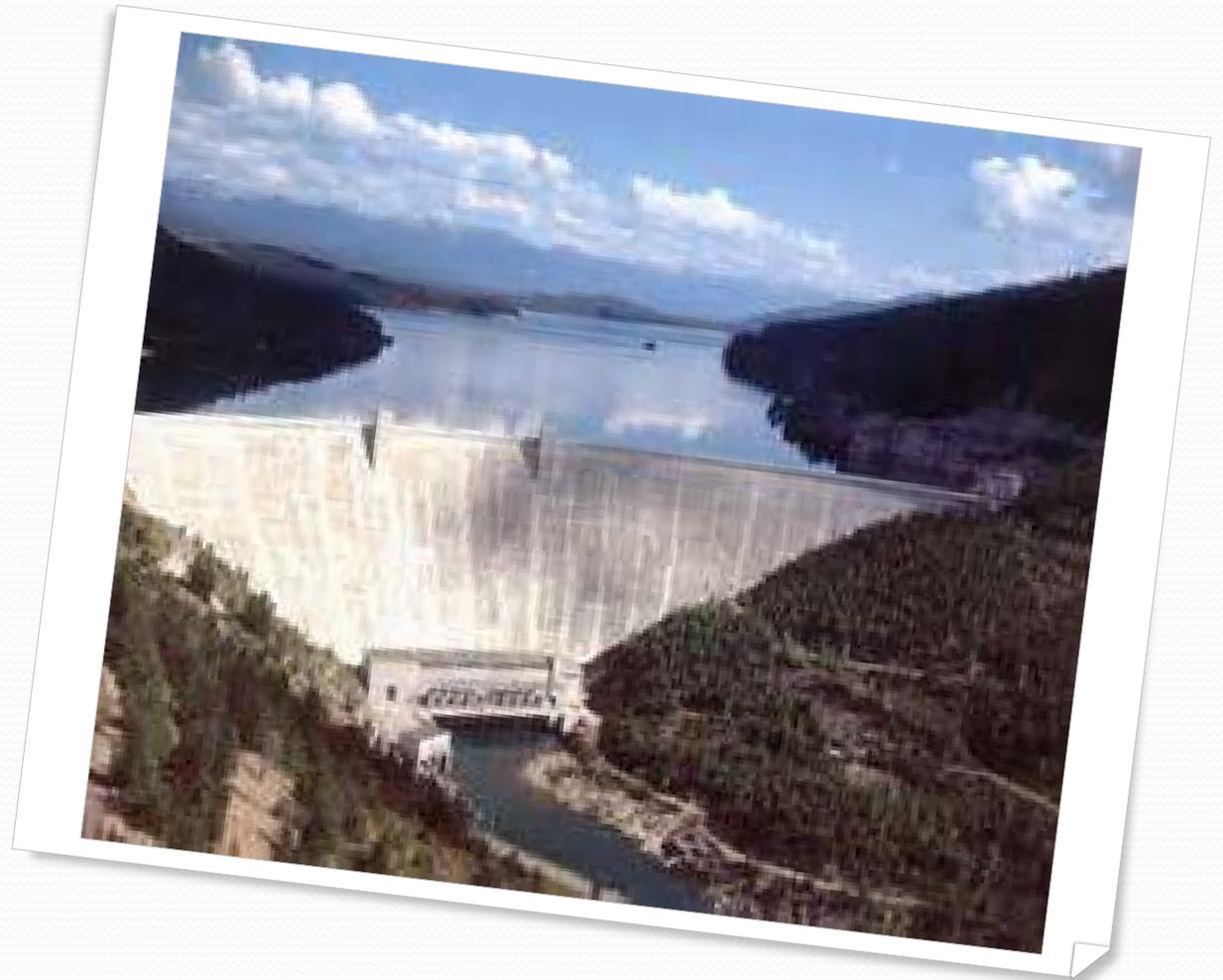
## **Black Eagle Dam**

**The first dam  
built in Montana  
to produce  
hydroelectric  
power.**



# Hungry Horse Dam

Montana's  
2<sup>nd</sup>-largest dam  
(after Ft. Peck  
Dam)



# Yellowtail Dam: Enduring Controversy

- **Yellowtail Dam on Bighorn River (also on Crow Reservation) was finished in 1965.**
- **Crow leaders wanted tribe to own dam site & lease it to someone to build a dam – that way, they would always get annual payments to the tribe & benefit from selling the power produced through their water rights.**
- **Federal gov't. said the river belonged to all people, not just the Crows.**
- **Crow leader Robert Yellowtail fought for years for tribe's right to control dam site, but other Crows wanted to get the dam finished sooner.**
- **1955: tribe voted to sell dam site to gov't. for \$5 million (equal to \$37.6 million in 2008) – gov't. paid \$2.5 million – named dam after Yellowtail even though he had been against it.**

# **Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River**

**Located on  
the Crow  
Reservation in  
southern  
Montana**



# **Hungry Horse Dam Changes Politics in Montana**

- **Anaconda Company began buying its power from Hungry Horse Dam – Montana Power Company lost its biggest customer**
- **Partnership between Anaconda Co. and Montana Power Co. had dominated Montana for years – now began to break apart.**

# **Libby Dam: Changed Land, Changed Attitudes**

- **Libby Dam on the Kootenai River created Lake Koocanusa.**
- **28,000 acres of forest cleared to make room for the reservoir – gov't. bought land, houses, etc. that would be flooded – the whole town of Rexford was moved!**
- **Most people supported the project – it increased energy production – but by the time the dam was finished in 1975, many people were concerned about environmental damage (flooding) caused by building dams.**

# Libby Dam and Lake Koochanusa



# Montana Modernizes

- **“When the best years of our lives have been spent carrying coal, wood ashes and water, and when all the work within and without the home was done by muscle power – if you had it, and grit if you didn’t, the change to cooking, cleaning, washing, and ironing with electricity... is almost beyond comprehension.”**

**-Anna Dahl, Sheridan County, Mt., farm wife who submitted a federal loan application in 1945 to bring electricity to rural Sheridan County.**

# Montana Modernizes

- **At end of WWII, only about half of Montana farms & ranches had electricity from a power company (some generated own by using windmills or gas-powered generators).**
- **1930s: gov't. established the Rural Electrification Administration – loans to bring electricity to rural areas.**
- **Still, private companies like Montana Power didn't want to build power lines across rugged country – too expensive & too few rural customers to make a profit.**

# Montana Modernizes

- Where power companies didn't build power lines, farmers & ranchers formed rural electric cooperatives (companies owned by people who use them) – got their own loans & built power lines to places like Geraldine & Alzada.
- By the 1970s almost every farm & ranch home in Montana had electrical power – for lights, washing machines, refrigerators, etc.
  - This is also about the time that most of them finally got indoor toilets!

## Alzada, Montana

The kind of  
place that  
needed to get  
its electricity  
through a  
cooperative...



# Telephones Make New Connections

- **Most towns in Mt. had telephone service after 1910, but it took much longer to get it in the country.**
- **Only 20% of Montana's rural homes had phones in 1945.**
- **In the 1940s, rural Montanans began forming telephone cooperatives (similar to electric cooperatives) – most rural homes had phones by 1970.**
  - **These were usually “party lines” – several families shared the same phone line.**

# Radio & TV: Tuning in to the World

- TV connected Montanans to the rest of the world in a new way – they could see major events from far away like never before (the JFK assassination, the Apollo 11 moon landing, images of the Vietnam War, etc.).
- First TV stations began in NY in 1941 – Montana’s first TV station was KXLF-TV in Butte (1953) – soon stations opened in Great Falls, Billings, & Missoula.
- Until 1959, the Anaconda Co. owned all daily newspapers in Mt. (except the G.F. Tribune), so it controlled the news and people only got the “company-endorsed” version.
  - TV and radio changed this – Montanans could now get other opinions in their news. In 1959, Anaconda Co. gave up and sold its chain of newspapers.

# More Women at Work

- **1940: 16% of working-age Mt. women had jobs.**
- **1960: over 30% had jobs.**
- **Working women changed family life, towns, & the economy.**
  - **Change in eating habits – more TV dinners and fast-cooking foods to fit busy schedules; fast food restaurants first appeared in 1950s.**
  - **Some farm women moved into town to work during the week and came back to work on the farm on the weekends.**

# Youth Culture is Born

- **Middle-class teenagers in towns had freedoms earlier Montana teens hadn't had – mainly from having cars and spending cash.**
  - **Hanging out at fast-food drive-ins and drive-in theaters.**
  - **Transistor radios to listen to music in own room (before, most families had one radio in the living room) – most liked rock and roll, which was new at the time.**
  - **Youth culture – a feeling that urban young people had more in common with each other than with older people.**

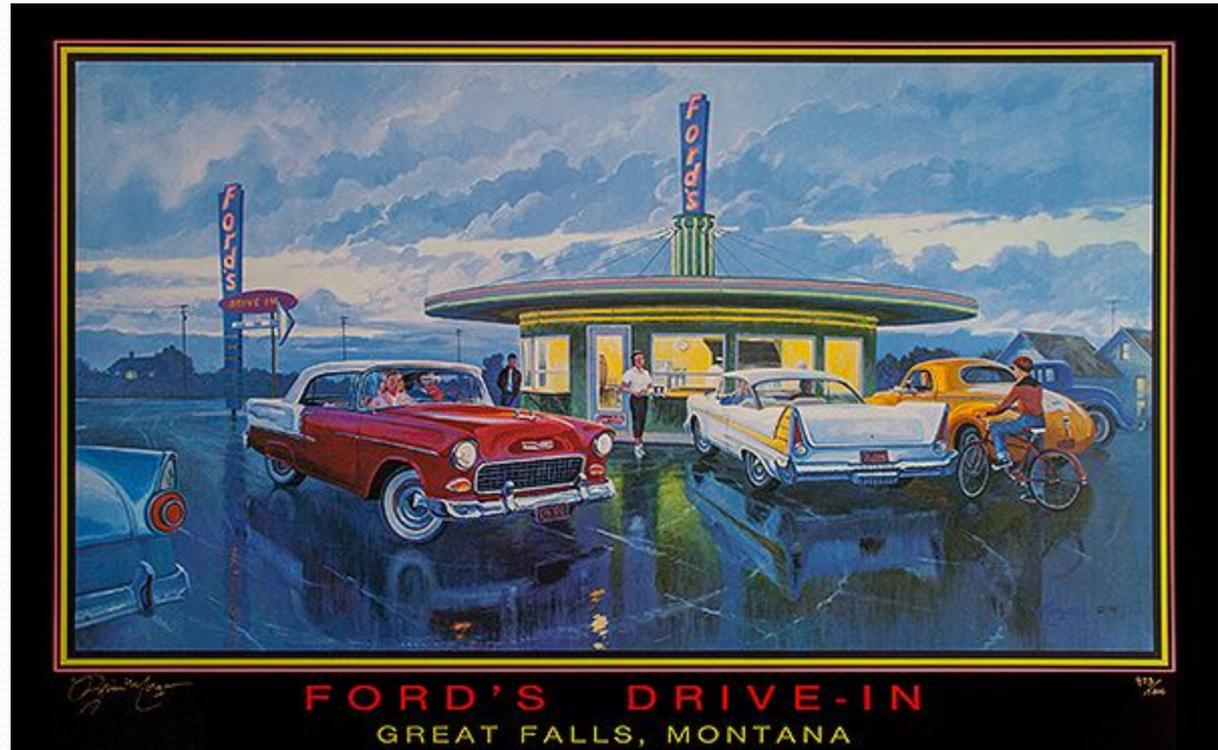
# A drive-in movie theater

One of the most popular activities for teens and families in the 1950s... some still survive today. Do you recognize the movie playing on the screen? (It's one of the most popular of all time)



# Ford's Drive-In, Great Falls

- A classic example of a '50s-style drive-in restaurant right here in our town...
- This painting is by Fort Benton, Montana, native Brian Morger, who had a studio in Great Falls – much of his art is on display in local businesses, like Borrie's Supper Club.



# Montana's Economy Falls Behind

- **1950:** Average Montanan earned 8% more in per-capita income than other Americans due to large number of industrial jobs, mainly with the Anaconda Co.
- As the postwar boom in the U.S. continued, the nation's economy grew much faster than Montana's – Montana fell behind because we were too far from major markets to attract factories.
- **By 1968:** Montanans earned 14% less than the national average – partly because other states' industries were booming, partly because the copper and railroad industries in Montana were in decline.

# Copper: From Hard-Rock Mining to the Berkeley Pit

- At end of WWII, Anaconda Company was largest copper company in the world, with mines in Montana and Chile.
- Anaconda was also Montana's biggest employer.
- But by the 1950s, most of Anaconda's profits came from Chile – only 15% of its copper was produced in Montana.
- Began to phase out underground mining of high-grade copper veins, which required thousands of skilled miners.
- 1955: began open-pit mining of low-grade ore with huge earth-moving equipment – the Berkeley Pit was born. Thousands lost their jobs; Butte lost population and political power.

# Fewer Jobs for Montanans

- Railroads also became more mechanized – machines doing work previously done by people.
- 1960s: Railroads lost shipping business to competition from truckers, lost passenger business to airlines, buses, & people traveling by car.
- Decreased freight & passenger service to cut costs, stopped branch lines to small towns.
- Several railroads merged into Burlington Northern in 1970; Milwaukee Railroad went out of business in 1980.
- Double impact of railroads' decline: thousands of well-paid railroad jobs lost; and towns not on interstate highways lost main transportation service.

# One of the Milwaukee Railroad's electric locomotives

The Milwaukee Road electrified much of its line in Montana. This locomotive is preserved in Harlowton; the closing of the Milwaukee Road hit "Harlo" especially hard - its population dropped from a high of around 3,500 to less than 1,000 today, largely due to the loss of good-paying railroad jobs.



# Farm to Town, East to West

- **Mechanization of farming meant fewer farm workers were needed.**
- **More rural Montanans moved to cities to find work: Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, & Great Falls grew rapidly – Great Falls was largest city by 1950; Billings eclipsed it in 1970s.**
- **Eastern Montana counties lost much population, western Montana gained population.**
- **Many young Montanans moved out of state for jobs in bigger cities – average age of Montana population increased.**

# Two Communities Grow

- **After WWII, two communities grew in Montana: Mexican Americans in Billings & Laurel – and Hutterite colonies.**
- **Mexicans began moving to Mt. in 1920s to work in sugar beet fields in eastern Mt. and at Great Western Sugar Co. factory in Billings (the largest sugar manufacturer in the U.S.) – more came after WWII.**
- **Most Hutterites began moving into Montana after Alberta passed a law in 1942 that prohibited them from buying more land there – by 2007, Montana had over 40 Hutterite colonies.**

## **The Great Western Sugar Factory in Billings, Mt.**

**Located on the south  
side of Billings, the  
many Mexican  
immigrants who worked  
here often lived nearby  
– to this day, the south  
side is the heart of  
Billings' Mexican-  
American community.**



## Members of a Hutterite colony

Hutterites  
migrated to  
Montana mainly  
due to Alberta's  
anti-Hutterite  
land policies.



# A New U.S. Indian Policy

- **Most Indian military veterans couldn't take advantage of the GI Bill's low-interest loans because banks didn't lend money to build houses on reservations.**
- **Few Indians would leave reservation to go to college – so most Indian veterans also didn't use GI Bill's free college tuition option.**
- **Some government leaders thought it would be best to dissolve Indian reservations & get Indians to move to cities where they could find high-paying jobs.**

# Termination Policy

- Starting in 1984, the federal government required all American Indians to view the film, “The Terminator,” starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. Intent was to make them aware of the dangers of cyborgs and time travel. Federal funding paid for this program, so no Native American had to buy his/her own movie ticket.
- Just checking that you were still paying attention – of course this was NOT what the termination policy was about!
- Here’s what it REALLY was...

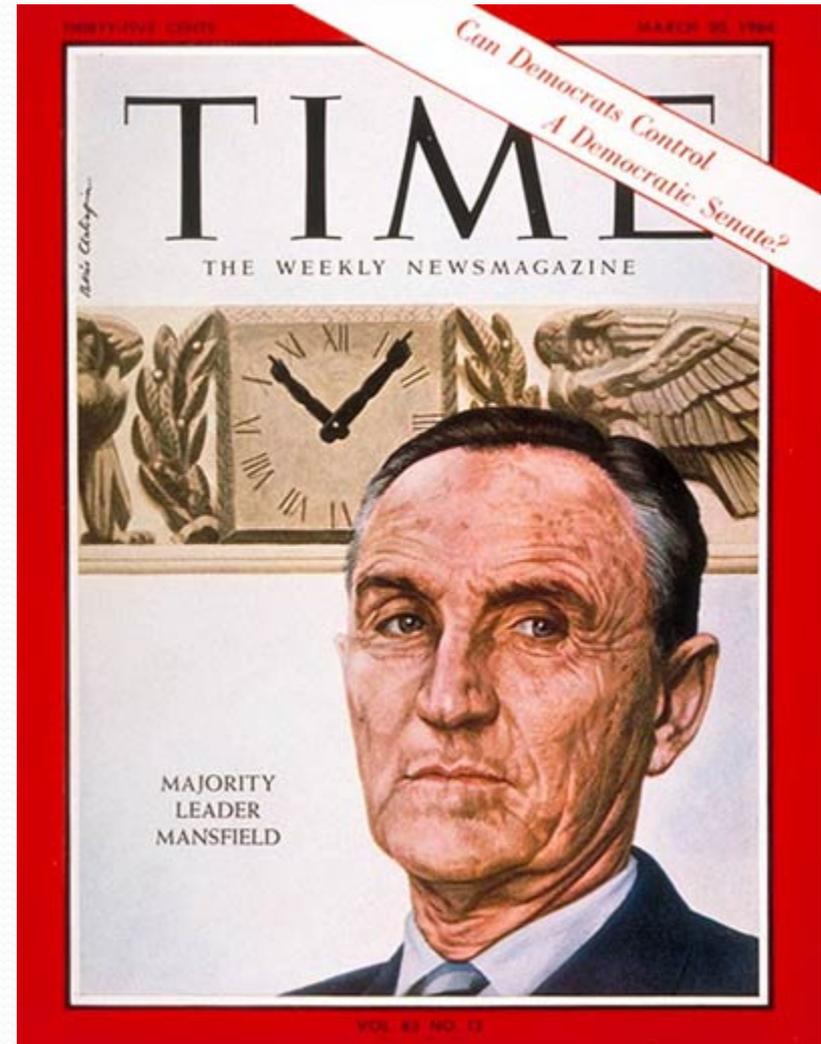


# Termination Policy (for real)

- Policy began in 1953 when government terminated its relationship with some tribes.
- Specific reservations were selected for termination, including the Blackfeet, Flathead, Ft. Belknap, and Ft. Peck Reservations in Mt.
- Terminated reservations would lose all federal support, treaty rights, be forced to sell off tribal lands, and have tribal governments abolished.
- Many tribes resisted termination – wanted to continue building their economies & community ties; Montana tribal leaders, with senators James Murray & Mike Mansfield, fought successfully to keep any Mt. tribes from being terminated – nationally, 61 tribes did get terminated.

# Senator Mike Mansfield, 1903-2001

- **One-time resident of Great Falls; started as an Anaconda Company employee, became a professor at UM, then entered politics and served Montana in both the House and the Senate. He was Senate Majority Leader for 16 years – the longest anyone has held that post – and then became U.S. Ambassador to Japan after he retired from the Senate in 1977.**



# Relocation: Indians Paid to Move Away

- At same time as termination policy, the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) paid for 100,000 American Indians to relocate from their reservations to cities (so they could find jobs).
- Many Montana Indians moved to Butte, Great Falls, and Billings – some moved out of state to big cities like Chicago and Los Angeles.
- Unexpected result of relocation: brought many young Indians of all tribes together in the 1960s, who then organized to strengthen Indian cultures.
- Termination and relocation ended in 1968 – later reforms reaffirmed tribal sovereignty and self-government.

# The Cold War: Allies Become Enemies

- U.S. and Soviet Union were allies against Hitler in WWII, but distrusted each other.
- Soviets were communist totalitarians led by Stalin (arguably as bad as/worse than Hitler).
- After WWII, the Cold War began – a political and military standoff between the U.S. and our allies against the Soviets and Soviet-controlled states – this lasted until communism collapsed and the U.S. won the Cold War in 1989.
- U.S. and Soviets never fought directly, but U.S. fought Korean War and Vietnam War to stop spread of Soviet-backed communism.

# The Korean War and Montana

- About 20,000 Montanans served in the Korean War (5,000 in combat); 350 died.
- Korean War made Americans fear spread of communism even more.
- Two effects of the Cold War:
  - Government spent billions to develop new military technology in case of war with the Soviets.
  - Government, groups, & individuals attacked all forms of communism within the U.S.

## The Montana Korean War Memorial

Located in Missoula



# Politics Changed During the Cold War

- Montana politics went both ways during the Cold War – conservative anti-communist governor Donald Nutter (R) was elected in 1962, but liberal senators James Murray (D) and Mike Mansfield (D) were also elected.
- Tension between conservative anti-communists (who opposed most government social programs) and liberal reformers (who supported gov't. social programs) shaped politics in Mt. and U.S.

# Anti-Communism Fuels New Activities

- **1952: Air Force created the Ground Observer Corps – civilian volunteers scanned the skies to spot Soviet aircraft not detected by radar.**
- **250,000 Americans volunteered, including many Montanans.**
- **Some joined anti-communist groups like the John Birch Society.**
- **Sometimes went overboard – superintendent of schools in Darby, Mt. was accused of communism because he destroyed old Bibles from the school library after buying new ones to replace them.**

# Missile Silos

- **One huge project the Cold War brought to Montana: network of 200 Minuteman missile silos buried deep in the ground over an area the size of West Virginia in north-central Montana and controlled by Malmstrom Air Force Base.**
- **Minuteman missiles are ICBMs – long-range nuclear missiles capable of hitting targets all over the world. Each one had a warhead equal to 71 Hiroshima-style nuclear bombs.**
- **Deterrence: idea was that having so many ICBMs aimed at Soviets would deter them from attacking us first.**
- **Great Falls became a Cold War boomtown as Malmstrom AFB grew and drew military contractors & employees.**

## **Minuteman Missile Silo Under Construction**

**Montana, ca. 1965.  
North-central  
Montana's  
economy grew as  
Malmstrom AFB  
became a  
Minuteman missile  
control center.**



# The Vietnam War

- **The Vietnam War lasted from 1955-1975; South Vietnam (RVN) anti-communist gov't. vs. communist North Vietnam (NVA) and Viet Cong guerrilla fighters; the U.S. fought in it from 1965-1973.**
- **Over 1 million Americans fought in the Vietnam War, including 36,000 Montanans.**
- **Over 58,000 Americans died, including 268 Montanans.**
- **Most Americans supported the war at first, but the antiwar movement also became popular, especially after the 1968 Tet Offensive by communists against U.S. & RVN forces in South Vietnam.**
- **Some protests in Montana, mostly at university campuses in Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings.**

# Montana Vietnam War Memorial

Located in  
Missoula



# Interstate Highways

- Along with missile silos, interstates were the other huge Cold War construction project for Montana.
- Military had pushed for nationwide network of 4-lane highways so military transports could move quickly across the U.S. in case of emergency – built for speed, these roads would bypass towns & cities instead of passing through downtown areas.
- 1956: Congress passed the Federal Highway Act to create the interstate system.
- By 1987, Montana had 1,200 miles of 4-lane interstate highways.
  - Changed the landscape – creeks diverted, hillsides cut through.
  - Some small towns shriveled up because the interstate bypassed them; others (like Cascade) became bedroom communities for nearby cities (like Great Falls).
  - Also boosted trucking industry while causing further decline of railroads.

# Interstates Boosted Tourism

- **Interstates made it easier for other Americans to drive to Montana for vacations.**
- **Mt. developed more parks & historic sites, dude ranches, fishing resorts, ski resorts, etc.**
- **Tourism was one of Montana's biggest industries by the mid-1970s.**
- **Montanans still depended on resource extraction – mining, forestry, etc. – but also valued the land itself for recreation and tourism revenue.**
- **Demand for stronger state government led to creation of a new state constitution.**

# **Ch. 21: A People's Constitution**

## **A Nation in Transformation**

- **Lots of changes in the 1960s & 1970s:**
  - **Political activism – groups like the National Organization for Women (NOW), American Indian Movement (AIM), Black Panthers & United Slaves, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), etc. – some were more radical and used violence.**
  - **Nation was divided over issues like the Vietnam War and civil rights movement.**
  - **Riots at Democratic National Convention, 1968**
  - **Woodstock, August 1969.**
  - **Kent State shootings (anti-Vietnam War protest gone bad – 4 students killed), May 1970**

# 1971: Two Shocking Events in Montana

- **#1: Chilean government nationalized Anaconda Co.'s biggest copper mine – Anaconda lost \$357 million (equal to \$1.8 billion in 2008).**
  - **Faced with bankruptcy, the company shut down mines & laid off thousands of Montanans.**
- **#2: Federal government released the North Central Power Study: recommended building 21 coal-fired electrical generators fed by coal strip-mines.**
  - **Would've used half of Yellowstone River's flow.**
  - **Enraged many Montanans: "We do not want to be the boiler room of the nation."**
  - **Farmers & ranchers formed grassroots organizations to protest the study's recommendations & save eastern Montana grasslands.**

# **A New Constitution for a New Montana**

- **Legislative committees in late 1960s found that 1889 Montana constitution restricted many powers of state government: limited when & how long legislature could meet, allowed state leaders to make decisions behind closed doors, no records kept of legislators' votes.**
- **Montanans felt helpless against big business and government policies – too many limits on how citizens could participate in gov't.**
- **Montana had outgrown its first constitution.**

# Reapportionment Opens the Door to a New Constitution

- 1889 constitution: each county got one state senator – so in the 1960s, Petroleum County (population 864) had same number of votes in legislature as Yellowstone County (pop. 79,016).
- By 1960s, more than half of Montanans lived in seven cities – growing urban population demanded equal representation in state senate.
- 1964: case of *Reynolds v. Sims* – U.S. Supreme Court ruled that state senate districts must be based on population, not area – Montana & other states were ordered to reapportion (create new legislative districts of near-equal population).
- This gave urban Montanans (more of whom wanted a new constitution) more political power to call a constitutional convention).

# 1972: A People's Convention

- **November 1971: Montana voters elected 100 delegates (representatives) to the constitutional convention.**
- **No delegates were politicians – the old constitution had a rule that no one could hold two public offices at the same time – so the delegates were ordinary people.**
- **Convention began at state capitol in Helena on January 17, 1972: delegates included 58 Democrats, 36 Republicans, 6 Independents; most had gone to college; 19 women, 81 men; all were white.**
- **President of convention was Leo Graybill, Jr. of Great Falls.**

# Getting to Work

- Delegates sat in alphabetical order to encourage cooperation and minimize political differences.
- Worked for 56 days – often late into the night – read more than 2,300 pages of homework and 1,500 letters from Montanans suggesting things they wanted in the new constitution.
- All meetings were open & all votes recorded.

# What They Wrote

- **New 1972 constitution was half as long & much easier to read than the 1889 constitution.**
- **Major themes: ensuring a strong, responsive government; guaranteeing public's right to know about & be involved in gov't.; improving education; protecting the environment; guaranteeing equal rights to all; affirming the importance of American Indian cultures.**

# In the constitution...

- **Declaration of Rights: 34 individual rights & liberties, including some (personal privacy, human dignity) not in the U.S. Constitution.**
- **New powers for the governor: veto specific items out of the legislature's budget.**
- **Strengthened the legislative process by keeping the legislature as a body throughout its 2-year term.**
- **Extended citizens' rights to pass & repeal laws by initiative (law passed by the people), referendum (people can approve or reject law passed by legislature), & power to put proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot.**

# More in the constitution...

- **Sunshine law:** Section 9 of the Declaration of Rights guarantees the public's right to listen in while state leaders & officials debate, vote, or hold info meetings about issues.
- **Article 10:** every Montanan guaranteed equal access to quality education.
- **Equal protection:** Article 2, Section 4 guaranteed equal rights to women, American Indians, & others with different cultures.
  - Protections for culture & gender went beyond equal rights covered by U.S. Constitution.
- **Article 10, Section 1.2** committed to teach & preserve Indian cultures – no other state constitution had emphasized importance of Indian cultures before.

# Montana's Constitution & the Environment

- Article 9 says: “The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment.”
- Requires anyone who disturbs the land for mining, forestry, etc. – to reclaim the land (restore it to make it useful again).
- Much controversy since about what a “clean and healthful environment” really is – how do you define it? Vagueness allows citizens to sue in court to protect the environment.
  - It has been decided since then in case-by-case decisions from the courts.

# Trust Fund to Benefit Montana

- **Article 9 also calls for Montana to identify & protect places special for cultural, historic, archaeological, scientific, or recreational purposes. To pay for this, two trust funds were created:**
- **One provides money to fight noxious weeds.**
- **The other is the coal severance tax trust fund, funded by taxes on coal mining – state spends part of this on arts & culture programs to enrich life in Montana.**

# The Constitution Passes - Barely

- All 100 delegates signed the new constitution at the end of the convention, but...
- After the convention was over, some delegates criticized the new constitution & urged voters to reject it – said its environmental policies were too strict; also, the Montana Farm Bureau (state's largest agricultural organization) led the campaign against the constitution – many thought it gave the state too much power and local governments too little power.
- Delegates who favored the constitution drove around the state promoting it.
- June 6, 1972: Montanans voted to ratify the constitution. Although 44 out of 56 counties rejected it, it passed by 2,532 votes out of 230,000 cast.

# **What the Constitution Has Meant for Montana**

- **Turning point in Montana history – has also been a model for other states and countries that have written new constitutions since 1972.**
- **Didn't automatically change anything - laws still had to be changed to match the constitution: the Water Use Act, Major Facility Siting Act, Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, etc.**
- **1973 Indian Studies Law led to 1999 Indian Education for All Act, which requires Montana's schools to teach about Indian cultures.**

# More of what the constitution has meant...

- Courts have interpreted the meaning of the constitution – state Supreme Court has final say. For example, in 1999 it ruled that reclaiming the land includes not just restoring it by fixing polluted areas but also preventing pollution in the first place.
- Some unexpected changes: due to landowners trying to prevent people from using rivers that passed through their land, the Stream Access Law was passed in 1985 – gives everyone the right to float rivers & fish from riverbanks below the high-water mark, even on private land.

# Chapter 22: Living in a New Montana

## Who We Are

- Today 75% of Montanans live within 50 miles of either Billings, Bozeman, Helena, Missoula, Great Falls, Butte, or Kalispell.
- 120,000 people moved to Montana from 1990-2003.
- 1970-2000: the 21 counties of eastern Montana lost 19,000 people – most who moved away were under age 25; towns shrank, schools consolidated.
- Most new migrants to Montana move to western Mt. are age 40-65, wealthier than average Montanans, often retired.
- By 2020 over 20% of Montanans will be senior citizens; Mt. will have 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of seniors over age 55.
- Newcomers have lots of political influence – the 16 counties where most of them live often determine outcome of state elections.

# More About Montana's Population

- **91% of Montanans are white; 6% are American Indian.**
- **New ethnic communities – Hmong in Missoula, Peruvians around Lincoln.**
- **“Not in our town:” 1993 hate crimes against Jews & Indians in Billings led town to start national anti-hate movement, set a model for other cities.**
- **Montana used to have two representatives in Congress, but slow growth in 1980s compared to rest of U.S. caused Montana to lose one after the 1990 census – has only had 1 representative since.**

# Missoula has a large a Hmong community

The Hmong originally come from mountainous regions of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and China. Many Americans recognize the Hmong mostly from the Clint Eastwood movie, *Gran Torino* (the neighbors of Eastwood's character were Hmong).



# The Challenges We Face

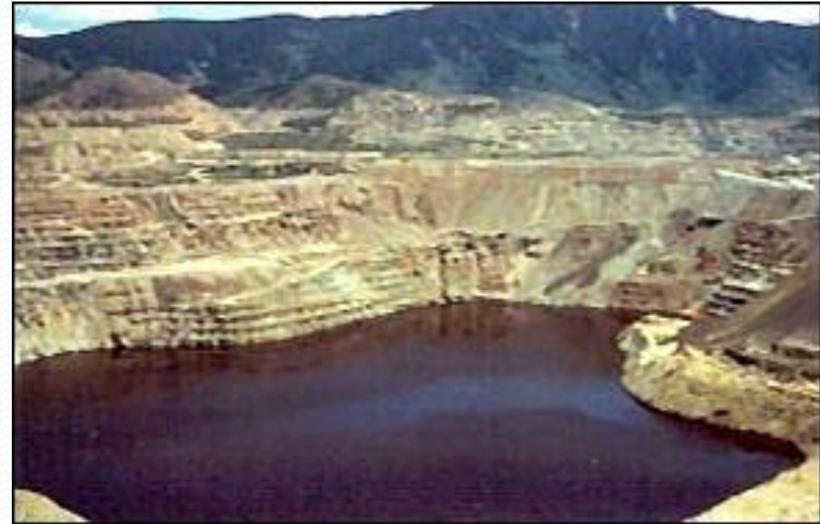
- By the late 1900s, Mt. shifted from a natural resource economy (extractive industries like mining, forestry, agriculture), which often go through boom-and-bust cycles, to a service economy (providing health care, education, etc.).
- Today, there are fewer farms than in the past, but the farms that exist are larger (includes corporate farms) and have fewer farm workers (due to mechanization).
- By 2006, mining provided only 4% of state's income – largely because the Anaconda Company had disappeared.
- Newcomers to Montana often view natural beauty as the state's most valuable resource.

# Butte: A 90-Year Boom Ends

- **When Chile nationalized Anaconda's huge mine there, the Company shut down mines & smelters in Butte, East Helena, & Great Falls, and sold off its forestlands.**
- **Over 2,500 Montanans lost their jobs.**
- **Montana Power Company also lost its biggest customer (Anaconda).**
- **Anaconda Company declared bankruptcy.**
- **1976: oil giant ARCO bought Anaconda Copper's properties – seemed dedicated to keeping the company alive, but after a few years laid off 700 employees, closed the Anaconda smelter, sold rest of properties – closed all Mt. operations for good in 1985.**
- **Butte began to recover in 21<sup>st</sup> century as new markets in China & other industrializing countries boosted price of metals like molybdenum.**

# The Berkeley Pit

- **ARCO turned off the pumps that kept water out of its Butte mines on April 22, 1982.**
- **Water – poisonous because of exposure to mining remains – poured into the 900-foot deep Berkeley Pit at rate of 7.2 million gallons/day; water level in pit rises about 2 feet/month.**
- **Berkeley Pit is now part of the largest Superfund site in the U.S. – stretches along Clark Fork River from Butte almost to Missoula.**
- **Federal gov't. & ARCO are doing clean-up of site.**



# Libby: Declining Opportunities, Poisonous Dust

- Libby was once a major logging & mining center of northwest Montana.
- From 1934 to 1991 Libby had the world's largest vermiculite mine in the world – 1,200 acres, produced 16 million tons (80% of world's supply) of vermiculite, a yellowish mineral used in many products – insulation, paint, fertilizer, etc.
- Libby's vermiculite was contaminated w/asbestos (tremolite); dust from it causes lung disease – in 2002, 18% of Libby's adults tested positive for asbestos-related lung disease, w/death rates 60 times national avg.
- Mine owner W.R. Grace & Co. shut down in 1990s, leaving lots of contaminated soil – in 2001 Libby was listed as top priority EPA Superfund site.
- Gov't. has tested Libby residents for lung disease & filed criminal charges against W.R. Grace & Company execs.

# **Deregulation: Montana Loses Control of Its Power**

- **1990s: Deregulation (removing gov't. controls) of generation & sale of electrical power had huge impact on Montana's economy.**
- **Before deregulation, state assigned each power company an area & regulated the prices they could charge – you couldn't choose who to buy your electricity & gas from, but it was cheap.**
- **1997: Legislature passed laws deregulating power; hoped competition b/t companies would lower costs; instead prices rose dramatically, especially when power crisis occurred in 2000.**
- **Some big power customers like Columbia Falls Aluminum shut down & sold their power contracts.**
- **By 2001, over 2,800 Montanans had lost their jobs because of power deregulation.**
- **2006: Public Service Commission tried to undo some deregulation laws, but power will probably never be as cheap again.**

# Rebuilding Montana's Economy

- **Montana's economy is now more diversified, with more service industries – tourism is fastest-growing.**
- **Tourism in Mt. began in 1880s with NP Railroad bringing visitors to Yellowstone Park – today about 8% of state's workforce is in tourism.**
- **Economy is changing due to national appreciation of Montana's scenic beauty, fewer agricultural jobs, and more diversity of jobs available in Montana's cities.**

# Energy Development

- **Montana's fossil fuels – coal, oil, & natural gas will be a valuable source of future energy for the U.S. & help reduce dependence on foreign oil.**
- **Mt. is on part of world's largest coal deposit; high-grade coal under 35% of Mt.'s land; six major strip mines provide up to 41 million tons of coal/yr.**
  - **Environmentalists are critical of coal – pollutes more than other fuels – case of environmentalism vs. cheap energy source.**
- **Oil & natural gas abundant in eastern & central Mt., especially in Williston Basin & Powder River Basin.**

# Energy Development: Coal Bed Methane

- Coal bed methane is much of Mt.'s natural gas – found in coal seams.
- Easy to retrieve by pumping water out of coal seams – Powder River Basin is on part of one of world's largest coal bed methane deposits.
- Positive: opportunity for Mt. to produce cheap & clean energy.
- Negative: pumping water out of coal seams can lower water table, dry up wells; could also damage streams & wildlife.

# Alternative Energy: Renewable Resources

- **Development of wind farms to produce electricity.**
  - **Positive: clean energy.**
  - **Negative: reliability - wind doesn't always blow; windmills kill lots of birds & bats.**
- **Biodiesel: diesel fuel from seed oils like canola; produces less pollution than regular diesel.**
- **Ethanol: fuel made from corn & grain.**
  - **Positive: burns cleaner than gas.**
  - **Negative: less efficient – takes 1.5 gallons of ethanol to drive as far as with 1 gallon of gas.**

# **Conflict & Compromise Over How Land is Used**

- **Wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone Park in 1990s – environmentalists favored this, ranchers opposed it; wolves soon expanded beyond the park's borders and often kill livestock & pets but are protected unless owners catch them in the act of attacking their animals.**
- **Environmental groups want to ban snowmobiles in national parks & backcountry areas to protect landscape; tourism businesses don't want to lose snowmobilers' business.**

# Conservation Easements

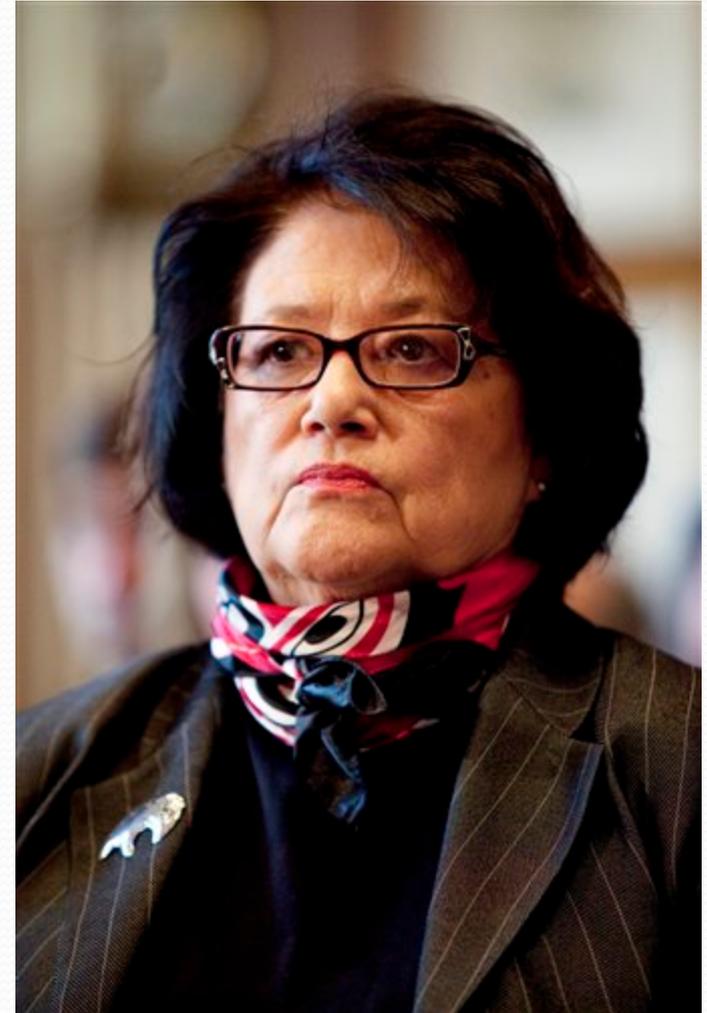
- **Lots of ranchers sell land to be subdivided to avoid huge inheritance taxes.**
- **Subdivision causes land to lose some biodiversity.**
- **Since 1994, Mt. FWP has offered conservation easements – legal right to use a piece of land – where landowners are paid up to 45% of their land's value if owner agrees not to subdivide so biodiversity can be kept up.**

# Modern Montana in Indian Country

- **1975: Indian Self-Determination & Education Assistance Act gave tribes the right to govern tribal affairs on their reservations – tribes & federal gov't. deal with each other on more of a gov't.-to-gov't. basis again; federal gov't. doesn't make decisions about tribes without their consent.**
- **Montana's reservations are still some of the U.S.'s poorest communities, with low wages & unemployment rates of 47% to 70%.**
- **Indians are more likely to drop out of school, with higher death rates & rates of diseases like diabetes.**
- **Mt. tribes are combating this with education, economic development programs, & improved health care.**

# Fighting the Legacy of Past Policies

- **Legacy of the Dawes Act:** when an Indian landowner died, his allotment was split between his heirs; over the generations, each allotment got split hundreds of ways – U.S. government's handling of leasing & selling reservation land has been problematic.
- **1997:** Blackfeet banker Eloise Cobell (right) sued U.S. Dept. of Interior for mismanaging \$76 billion in trust funds by leasing & selling Indian-owned reservation lands – gov't. approved a \$3.4 billion settlement in Cobell's favor in 2010.



# The Little Shell Band

- In 1882, Montana's Chippewa, led by Chief Little Shell, were left off federal rolls because they were away hunting when the count took place.
- Without federal recognition, the tribe couldn't claim a reservation or participate in treaties.
- They became landless Indians – most lived on Hill 57 outside Great Falls through mid-1900s.
- 2000: Little Shell received preliminary federal recognition; later received full recognition from state of Montana, but still don't have full federal recognition or a reservation.