



ing, no longer standing, was built in 1922 to accommodate elementary students, and this building was then converted for use as a high school. It served as such until 1951 and again briefly during the 1960s. Activity at the site ended permanently when Ingomar's school district closed in 1992. Today the spacious, well-lighted classrooms with hardwood floors, wood wainscot walls and pressed tin ceilings remain intact. One of the area's few surviving examples of public architecture, it is also eastern Montana's most outstanding example of post frontier prairie schoolhouse design. This splendid landmark is all the more remarkable because time and service have left its appearance virtually unchanged.

Sumatra

This town was a station and the highest point between Miles City and Harlowton on the Milwaukee rail line. The trains required a "pusher" engine to get them to the top of the hill in Sumatra. The town was originally called Summit, and no one knows exactly where the new name came from. Before the railroad came, the town was on the trail between Fort Musselshell and Fort Custer. Years ago, a fire destroyed much of the town and it was never rebuilt. Now only a white church and a few old buildings remain.

2.

Musselshell

The town takes its name from the river that was named by Lewis and Clark: "...the stream which

we suppose to be called by the Minetarus, the Musselshell River..." The name came from the mussel shells found along the river bed. Opposite the present townsite is the Musselshell Crossing, an old stockman's landmark. Here in the 1880s, herds of Texas Longhorn cattle were bedded down just prior to being distributed to their ultimate Montana owners. The trail that connected Fort Custer and Fort McGinnis passed through here as well.

3. Historical Marker, Attraction, Gas, Food, Lodging

Roundup

Roundup was once the gathering point for huge herds of cattle which grazed throughout the valley. It remained a cowtown until 1903, when settlers arrived and homesteads were fenced closing off the land and inhibiting grazing. Roundup is located at the crossroads of Highways 12 and 87. Since Montana's statehood centennial in 1989, the Roundup Cattle Drive has become an annual tradition.

T Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

524 1st St. W., Roundup. 323-1662

When you enter this museum, you can sign in on the old registry of the Adams Hotel of Lavina. The museum tells the story of the birth of Roundup

and includes a pioneer-era cabin and a five-room house. Its main exhibit is a coal mine and tunnel with a wooden car, carbide lamps, lunchpails, photos and maps. Other exhibits include local Indian artifacts, fossils, and paintings by local artists. Special exhibit rooms include the old Rothiemy Store and post office, a one room rural school, the original operating rooms of the old Vicars Hospital, and a dressmaker shop. On the grounds are a print shop, a blacksmith shop, and the old NF Ranch home which was originally built in 1884. Admission is free.

H Cow Country

Roundup

In the 1880s, days of the open range, many a roundup outfit worked this country. The spring roundup gathered the cattle in order to brand and tally the calf crop. The fall roundup gathered beef critters for shipping.

An outfit consisted of the captain, the riders, the "reps" from neighboring ranges, the cavvy or horse herd in charge of the day herder and night hawk, the four horse chuck wagon piloted by the cook and the bed wagon driven by his flunkey. Camp moved each day.

The cowboys rode circle in the morning, combing the breaks and coulees for cattle and heading them toward the central point to form a herd. In the afternoons of spring roundup the guards kept the herd together, the cutters split out the cows with calves, the ropers dabbled their loops on the calves, took a couple of dally welts around the saddle horn and dragged 'em