



Peerless The Town Named After a Beer

One of the more colorful towns in Montana is the little town of Peerless, named after Peerless Beer around 1912. The story goes that during a meeting in a local saloon to pick a name for the new post office, a traveling salesman was drinking a bottle of Peerless Beer and suggested that as a name for the new town. The name stuck.

In its early days, the town was known for its moonshiners and boozers. It even had a house of ill repute. The town was full of colorful characters. In the early days "Whitey the Gambler" shot and killed a man and was given 30 days to leave town. Then there's the mysterious local farmer, John Brown. No one knew where he came from or anything about his past. In the late 50s, they found him dead with quite a sum of money, a .38 strapped to his chest, and another alongside his bed.

28. Historical Marker, Gas, Food, Lodging

Opheim

Between 1900-1918, during the homestead era, this community and some of the smaller ones to the south were much bigger. The town was named for Alfred Opheim, the second postmaster for the area. His wife was the first.

H Wood Mountain Trail

Rte. 13, south of Scobey.

This Indian trail extended from the Yellowstone River past this point to the Wood Mountains in Canada. It was used for decades by the Sioux and the Assiniboine tribes in pursuit of the migrating buffalo. Also stalking this meat staple on the hoof were the Metis, a French Canadian band of Indians who used the trail. In the 1800s fur hunters and trappers made continual use of the passage and at the turn of the century, settlers and homesteaders followed. It was over this trail in July of 1891 that Sitting Bull and his Sioux warriors were escorted from Canada by Canadian Mounties and Jean Louis Le Gare, the man responsible for Sitting Bull's surrender at Fort Buford.

Scobey, Montana, was named for Major Scobey who served at Fort Buford and later worked with the Indian Bureau on the Fort Peck Reservation.



House of ill repute? In the early days of this area, "One-eyed Molly's" was a hotel/house of pleasure in what is now Scobey. When Daniels County was formed, the hotel was for the most part abandoned. The County purchased it and turned it into a courthouse. A few years later an addition was added. The building still serves as one of Montana's more colorful county capitols and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SCENIC DRIVES

As you travel through this vast open area of Montana, your first impulse is to hurry through it. The seemingly endless roads surrounded by vast plains or stretches of badlands seem like an obstacle on your way to the mountains of the west.

Slow down. Savor the experience. Stop your car every now and then and step out into the Big Open to experience the solitude and the power of the surrounding landscape. The scale and power of this country has a way of seeping inside your soul. Try to envision the grandeur that Lewis and Clark saw when they passed this way along the Missouri River. Picture in your mind the vast herds of bison, elk, antelope, and deer that they encountered. Imagine the awesome loneliness that might have struck their group as they journeyed through here.

Four Buttes, Poplar River and Rock Creek Badlands Route

Glasgow is your starting point for this trip. This trip is a 202 mile circle so plan your time accordingly. We'd recommend at least 2 days. This route will take you through endless miles of strip wheatfields and rolling grasslands. Head two miles east of town and take Route 24 north to Opheim. To the west of you, beyond a few farm roads, is some of the wildest prairie lands in the northern part of Montana—Bitter Creek.

After visiting Opheim go east on Highway 248. Along the way you'll pass through the towns of Glentana, Richland, Peerless, and Four Buttes. Stop at each one if you can.

A stop in Peerless isn't complete without a visit to Dutch Henry's Bar. The place is named for an outlaw who roamed these parts in times past. You actually learn a lot about the history of the area from the photos on the bar's walls.

When you get to Four Buttes notice the stately buttes to the northwest from which the town got its name. Continue on to Scobey where you'll want to be sure and visit Pioneer Town, arguably

one of the finest exhibits of its kind in the west.

Head south out of Scobey on Highway 13 through the Poplar River Valley to Highway 2 and the Missouri River Valley. Turn right on Highway 2 to Wolf Point and on back to Glasgow.

For another tour of this area, drive west on Highway 2 to Hinsdale. Another railroad town, this one was named after a town in New Hampshire. Its first building was a boxcar which served as a railroad depot. North of here you will find some of the most spectacular and remote badlands in Montana. About three miles east of Hinsdale, pick up Rock Creek Road and head north. Within about 18 miles you'll be skirting the western edge of a true prairie wilderness—the Bitter Creek region. There is a loop trip through these badlands which will take about eight hours. Check at the BLM office in Glasgow for a map and information about the loop. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended for this sidetrip. The stretch along Rock Creek is true cowboy country. The ranches are big here and there is a lot of space between people.

When you return to Glasgow on Highway 2, take a side trip at the sign to Vandalia and take Highway 246 back to Glasgow via Vandalia and Tampico.

Jordan Country, Circle Range and CMR Wildlife Refuge Route

This area was dubbed "The Big Open" by the late 1800s photographer L. A. Huffman. Others have called it "The Big Dry." Until the 1990s it was a fairly unknown area to the rest of the country when the standoff between the Federal agents and the Freeman brought it national attention. Jordan was founded in 1896 by Arthur Jordan. However, it wasn't named after him. He asked that the town take the name of a friend in Miles City who was also named Jordan. The first building or structure in Jordan was Arthur Jordan's tent. A post office