

Data Summary from Jane Daniels and Debie Davis for Madame Lake Property

2/14/2012

Block-7	
1906 January	All owned by Ashton Townsite Company
1906 month?	Lot 6, a corner lot, purchased from Townsite Co. by Guy Mayfield via Warranty Deed (Guy Mayfield not in census data)
1906 December	Lot 6 purchased from Mayfield by Minnie Meyers via Contract/Deed for (Minnie Meyers not in census data)
1906 December	Lot 7, directly north of lot 6 and also a corner lot, purchased from Townsite Co. by Minnie Meyers via Warranty Deed
1910 July	News that Jackson Lake Dam to be rebuilt from Ashton arrived in town
1910 August	Saloon/brothel complex destroyed by fire, owners intend to expand
1910 September	Lot 5 purchased from Townsite Co. by Jessie Waldren (aka Josie Lake)
1910 October	Lot 6 purchased from Minnie Meyers by Jessie Waldren for \$3250 (aka Josie Lake)
	what about Lot 7?
1910 month?	lien on Lot 5
1910 month?	lien on Lot 6
1914 month?	lien on Lot 5
1915 January	Contract with Anna Mattivi ...take ownership of Lot 5 & 6? Lot 7? (Anna Mattive not in census data)
1915 May	Lot 5 purchased from Mattive by Jessie Waldron (aka Josie Lake)
1915 May	Lot 6 purchased from Mattive by Jessie Waldron (aka Josie Lake)
1915 September	Lot 5 purchased from Waldron by Bronc Sparkman (Marshal)
1915 September	Lot 6 purchased from Waldron by Bronc Sparkman (Marshal) for \$1200
1915 September	Lot 5&6 purchased from Waldron by Bronc Sparkman (Marshal)
1919 April	Lot 5&6 purchased from Sparkman by M. P. Fowler. Bronc Sparkman tapped to be Fremont County Sheriff in 1920 as Oscar Cusick vacates position. Moves out of Ashton by 1920 census probably to home just outside of St. Anthony.
1920 November	Fuller & Moore Real Estate purchase Lots 1,2,3,4 and 7,8,9,10,11,12 from Townsite Co.
Block-6	
1906 January	All owned by Ashton Townsite Company
1920 month?	Lots 5,6,7 purchased from Townsite Co. by William & Leah Card

A good working hypothesis for the above data is as follows:

Guy Mayfield and Minnie Meyers are false names of individuals in the saloon/brothel business. In 1906, they purchase a couple of lots from the Ashton Townsite Co. in the middle of a field on the other side of the tracks away from any residences and build some kind of saloon/brothel. Jessie Waldron (aka Josie Lake) works for them as a Madame. A large house is built on Lot 6. The small saloon/brothel operates successfully from 1906 to 1910 when news reaches Ashton in July that a new Jackson Lake Dam will be built with Ashton as the logistical center. New people flood into Ashton and, in August of 1910, the

over crowded saloon/brother burns. The large house on Lot-6 survives. A renovation and expansion begins immediately. Jessie Waldron (aka Josie Lake) takes ownership of business, and buys Lot-6 (and 7?) from Meyers, with the large house on Lot 6 for \$3250 and buys Lot 5, an adjoining vacant lot east of Lot 6 from the Townsite Co. to expand her Madame Lake's Pleasure Emporium. Lots 5, 6, and 7 form an "L" shaped property. There is a flurry of building including improvements to a fine new house on Lot 6, a corner lot, with many other improvements on Lot-5. With an unprecedented building boom in Ashton due to the Jackson Lake Dam project, there are material shortages and the prices soar. The cost of expanding and improving the complex and house is astronomical and takes Jessie Walron (aka Josie Lake) by surprise. She feels cheated by the material suppliers, who had charged her several times the normal price for materials, and she refuses to pay. The materials suppliers lien her property, particularly Lot 6 where the large fine house stands. She ignores the liens and life goes on.

The business flourishes through the early teens during the height of the Ashton boom. However, by mid-decade, the booming town begins expanding to this "other side" of the tracks. Another lien is placed Lot 5 for an unpaid improvement in 1914. The city fathers feel it is time for 'The Lake' to move elsewhere so as to allow this area of town to become a new residential neighborhood. Jessie Waldron (aka Josie Lake) realizes that she must sell but needs to deal with the three liens against her property before she can. Being a Madame, she probably has many lawyer friends and, with their legal aide, she finagles a deal with a confidant named Anna Mattivi to legally complicate the liens. She then buys back the properties for a token sum. With the property title cleared of the liens, the town Marshal buys the fine house for \$1,200 as part of the deal struck between her and the city fathers who had asked her to relocate. Jessie moves to St. Anthony. Bronc takes residency in the large fine house with his large family. He does not mind living in the old brothel where he is town Marshal. He lives there for four years. In 1919, Bronc is tapped by Fremont County to fill the Sheriff position that is suddenly being vacated of Oscar Cusick who wants to quit as Sheriff. Bronc sells the house that, by this time, has lost most of its stigma. The other lots in the area begin to sell as Ashton expands into this northwest quadrant. Madame Lake's Pleasure Emporium becomes part of a residential neighborhood and is forgotten. The house on the corner lot, Lot 6, now belongs to Rulon Grub.

I actually know this house. It once belonged to Bob Summers. Bob's wife, Mrs. Summers, was my kindergarten teacher and she had a son my age. We were family friends and I spent a lot of time in this house when I was very young. It was a large fine house with large rooms and a 2nd story. But it is Rulon Grube that is now the proud owner of Madame Lake's house per this hypothesis.