

# ONE NIGHT IN A BAD INN

A TRUE STORY BY CHRISTY LESKOVAR

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## POINTS OF INTEREST IN BUTTE AND VICINITY

### ON THE HILL

**AILA HUGHES'S FIRST HOME IN BUTTE**—Northeast corner of Ohio and Platinum in the Cabbage Patch. The Hughes family lived here in 1915 (pages 163–164 of the book). Part of the Cabbage Patch was replaced by the Silver Bow Homes. Later the family moved to 26 South Gaylord which was where they were living when Hector died.

**FAMILY DRUG**—South Main at Platinum, second business north of the northwest corner. Aila worked here for the Flomers (pages 464, 467–469, 496).

**MADAME PAUMIE'S PARISIAN DYE HOUSE**—Southeast corner of Galena and Dakota. Peter Thompson's aunt Annie Gribben worked here as a seamstress. She and her sisters arrived in Butte from Ireland in 1907 (pages 137–141). It is now the post office.

**SYMON'S**—Southeast corner of Park and Dakota. This department store where Aila worked in the millenary department no longer exists though the building still stands (pages 171–172). The ad in the 1915 city directory said the store had “100,000 square feet of stock and selling space, largest store in the state, every price here is quite the smallest.” The building now houses several businesses and offices.

**GAMERS**—15 West Park, north side of the street, west of Main. Aila Hughes, Bridget Gribben (Peter's aunt B), and Peter's sister Jenny Thompson worked here. At that time, Gamers offered “confections and dainty lunches.” Today the lunches are dainty or otherwise—your choice.

**BUTTE JAIL**—In the basement of the old city hall on Broadway, south side of the street, east of Main. It really is a dungeon. A person in the book frequented the place; her daughter paid the fines to get her out (page 553). Tours of the jail are available through Old Butte Historical Adventures, 117 North Main. For hours, season of operation, and ticket prices, visit [www.butteamerica.com](http://www.butteamerica.com) and click on Old Butte Tours or call 406-498-3424.

**THORNTON BUILDING**—Northwest corner of Broadway and Wyoming. This was quite an elegant hotel in its day, hosting visiting dignitaries. Peter's aunt Maggie Gribben worked here as a maid after she arrived in 1907. Peter's brothers John and

Denis worked here for a short time as bellmen in the early 1920s (page 369). Denis was sure to collect a tip before he picked up the bags. It is no longer a hotel and today houses several businesses.

**HENNESSY BUILDING**—Southeast corner of Granite and Main. Peter's aunt B (Bridget Gribben) worked here in the china department. The department store was on the lower floors. The offices of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company were on the 6th floor. The building now houses several offices.

**POST OFFICE WHERE AILA WORKED**—This was in the Federal Building on the east side of North Main, north of Quartz (page 535). Directly across North Main are the ruins of the old Miners' Union Hall which was blown up during the 1914 troubles, leaving Butte an open shop for mining for the next 20 years (pages 152–160). Just south of the ruins of the Miners' Union Hall is the Butte—Silver Bow Public Archives where the author did much of her research.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH**—On the east side of North Main, north of the Federal Building. This was where Aila went for the Tuesday novena's to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (page 536). It is no longer a church and is now the visitors' center for the Lady of the Rockies.

**GRANITE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL**—Go north on North Main St., after St. Lawrence O'Toole Church, turn right at the marker for the memorial and follow the signs. This was the sight of the worst hard-rock mining disaster in American history (pages 208 to 216). A person in the book was a rescuer, then called helmet men because of the large breathing apparatus they wore. In addition to historic markers which recount the events, the memorial affords an expansive view of Butte.

**BUTTE-SILVER BOW COURTHOUSE**—Northeast corner of Granite and Montana. This was the sight of Bill Hughes's two trials in 1919 and Sarah Hughes's trial to litigate possession of the boarding house in 1920 (pages 336–341).

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**—329 West Mercury at Washington. Several family members were baptized here and Grace's name changed (page 458).

## POINTS OF INTEREST IN BUTTE AND VICINITY CONTINUED

**JUDGE JEREMIAH LYNCH'S HOUSE**—517 West Silver. Judge Lynch and Peter Thompson's uncle John Gribben were leaders of the Robert Emmet Literary Association, the Butte wing of Clan na Gael (pages 136–137, 187–188, 202–203). In 1919, Judge Lynch presided over Bill Hughes's trial (page 341). He offered to send Aila Hughes to law school (page 344).

**JOHN ELLIOTT'S HOUSE**—807 West Galena. Lawyer John Elliott and his family lived here when he defended Roy Walsh and Archie Hughes in Boulder in 1923 (pages 395–455).

**MINES**—The gallows frames are still standing for several mines in which people in the book worked. The Belmont is south of the east end of Park, west of Continental Drive (Peter Thompson and Bill Hughes worked here). The Original is west of Main across from the Federal Building (Arthur Hughes and Peter worked here). The Steward is northeast of the Original (Bill worked here). The Mountain Con is north of the Steward, two blocks east of Main (Archie and Bill Hughes worked here). For the Granite Mountain, see above. The Badger State is northwest of the Granite Mountain (Peter and Bill worked here). Page 150 of the book describes Peter's first day at the West Colusa which is now in the Berkeley Pit.

**WORLD MUSEUM OF MINING**—Go west on West Park to the end. The underground mine tour offers a glimpse of what it was like to work down in the mines. The tour is led by miners. There is much to see above ground too. The museum is a wonderful place to learn more about Butte's mining past. For hours, season of operation, and ticket prices, visit [www.butteamerica.com](http://www.butteamerica.com) and click on World Museum of Mining or call 406-723-7211.

**ZUBICK'S**—This was the photography studio where Aila had her high school graduation portrait taken in 1919, which is the picture on the book cover. Zubick's has been re-created in Hell Roarin' Gulch, a small Butte of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century at the World Museum of Mining.

**ST. HELENA'S CHURCH**—This was the Meaderville church that Father Tougas built in 1921 (page 490). Before Meaderville completely succumbed to the Pit, the little church was moved to the World Museum of Mining where it still stands today.

### ON THE FLAT

**AILA AND PETER THOMPSON'S HOMES**—Aila and Peter lived many places in Butte, always renting until March of 1931 when they put a \$200 down payment on the

house at 1811 Reynolds. The purchase price of the house was \$1250 which included furniture. The rest was mortgaged for three years at 10% interest. They lost the house in 1932 and moved to Helena. They returned to Butte in 1935, and Aila bought the house at 2204 Walnut Street in 1936. The house was in her name only and cost \$900. They put \$200 down. Peter was obligated to pay the \$700 mortgage to the sellers. The payments of \$20/month included 6% interest (pages 502–503). Peter was earning \$4.88 day's pay in the mines.

**ST. ANN'S CHURCH**—2100 Farragut. Peter's funeral Mass took place in the old church, which was in the brick building south of the new church (page 521).

**HOLY CROSS CEMETERY**—Harrison Ave., south of the mall. The grave sights of Peter, Aila, and Hector are here.

### LONG GONE

**SARAH HUGHES'S BOARDING HOUSE**—The large boarding house at 415 Kemper St. was torn down (or moved) and the Jefferson School built in its place which is also gone. Kemper was a north-south street east of Shields, south of Galena. (Shields has since been rerouted and Galena no longer goes that far east.) This area, called Parrot Flat, was razed or the buildings moved in anticipation of the Berkeley Pit engulfing the area. The Hughes family ran the boarding house from 1916 to 1920 (pages 197 to 201). Sarah's home at 516 East Park is also gone.

**PETER THOMPSON'S FIRST HOME IN BUTTE**—When Peter arrived in Butte in February of 1914, he lived with his aunts and uncle—the Gribbens—at 339 East Broadway (pages 147 to 148). The house is gone. It was on the north side of the street, a little east of the Broadway Café.

### EASY DAY TRIPS FROM BUTTE

**OLD MONTANA PRISON IN DEER LODGE**—Take I-90 west out of Butte and take the first Deer Lodge exit. Several people in the book spent time in the old prison which is now a tourist attraction (pages 106 to 116). For hours, call 406-846-3111 or visit <http://www.pcmf.org/prison.htm>.

HELENA, BOULDER, WHITEHALL, RENOVA, and TWIN BRIDGES are also easy day trips from Butte. See Points of Interest Helena, Boulder, Whitehall, Renova, Twin Bridges.