

# ONE NIGHT IN A BAD INN

A TRUE STORY BY CHRISTY LESKOVAR

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## POINTS OF INTEREST IN FORSYTH, MILES CITY AND VICINITY

### WEST OF FORSYTH

**HUGHES RANCH**—Eight miles west of Forsyth, at the southwest corner of Hwy 10 and the Colstrip Road (Hwy 39). This is the ranch the Hughes family homesteaded. They arrived in 1905 and received a patent for the homestead in 1912. (Whit Longley lived there until he passed away.) The house that burned down was in the same place as the house that is there now. The horse barn is believed to be that built by Arthur Hughes (pages 14–30 of the book).

**ARTHUR HUGHES'S DESERT CLAIM**—One mile due east of the Hughes Ranch, on the south side of Hwy 10 (page 30).

**TADSEN/ANDERSEN RANCH**—Directly north of the Hughes ranch. This is where Sarah Hughes used to go visiting and made quite an impression (pages 21–22).

### FORSYTH

**SARAH HUGHES'S HOUSE IN FORSYTH**—341 8th Ave. South, south of Prospect, middle of the block, east side of street. Sarah bought the house in 1912 for \$500. She and the five children moved into this house in town so the eldest boy, Bill, could attend high school in Forsyth. The house was in her name only. Her husband, Arthur Hughes, lived on the ranch eight miles west of town. The family had already sold the ranch, but Arthur still worked it and lived there (pages 30–33).

**NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD YARD** (now the Burlington Northern)—Where shepherd John Kiernan died (page 72).

**FORSYTH CEMETERY**—Take Front St. one mile east of Forsyth. This was the scene of some surprising events in the winter of 1913 (page 73). To reach the graves in the book, go straight into the cemetery and take the road to the end. The unmarked graves are on your right (to the west), three rows in, about 30 yards from the south end of the cemetery.

**ROSEBUD COUNTY COURTHOUSE**—On Main St., between 12th and 13th. The courthouse had a tumultuous opening in 1913 (pages 91–92). Sarah's trial was the first held here (pages 96–99).

**COUNTY ATTORNEY HENRY BEEMAN**—He lived on the west side of 13th Ave., two houses south of River St. He was county attorney during investigation of the fire (page 76).

**CORONER FRANK BOOTH**—In 1914, he lived on 14th at the southwest corner of River St. He was coroner during the inquest over the burned body discovered in the ruins of the fire on the Hughes Ranch in March of 1913 (pages 31–47).

**BOOTH'S FURNITURE AND MORTUARY**—Main St., east of 10th. His store was destroyed in the 1918 flood (page 102). He rebuilt. It is now the Gallery.

**JUDGE CHARLES L. CRUM**—In 1912 he lived on 12th Ave., southeast corner of Oak. That house is gone. In 1914 he lived on 13th, southeast corner of Oak. This was a boarding house called the Bachelor's Club. In 1916 he lived on 12th, three houses off Oak. He presided over Sarah Hughes's trial and came to an unfortunate end (pages 324–327).

**COUNTY ATTORNEY FELKNER "FRITZ" HAYNES**—He roomed upstairs in the Dowlin & Sweetser Building on Main St., west of 9th. The V Store is now on the first floor. He was county attorney during the First World War and was at odds with Judge Crum. He could be quite theatrical and became known as "the silver-tongued orator of the Yellowstone."

**ATTORNEY GEORGE HORKAN**—He lived on 11th Ave., northwest corner of Park. He defended Arthur Hughes in one case (page 18) and questioned witnesses during the inquest over the burned body.

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## POINTS OF INTEREST IN FORSYTH, MILES CITY, AND VICINITY CONTINUED

**DR. HARRY HUENE**—He lived on Park St., northwest corner of 14th. His office was in the Droese Bldg on Main near 9th. Shy Ann's is there now. He conducted the autopsy over the burned body (pages 46–47). His office was upstairs. The drugstore, owned by Peter Droese, was on the first floor.

**SHERIFF WILLIAM MOSES**—He lived on 15th Ave., northwest corner of River. He investigated the fire at the Hughes Ranch (pages 31–34).

**ATTORNEY DON SMITH**—He roomed at the Commercial Hotel on Main St., northeast corner of 8th. It is now the Howdy Hotel. He prosecuted Sarah Hughes on behalf of County Attorney Beeman.

**ATTORNEY BRAZ TULL**—He lived on Park, northeast corner of 13th Ave. His office was in the Choisser Bldg on 9th, east side of the street near Main, behind Tom's. He was Sarah's defense attorney (page 53).

**PIONEER MUSEUM**—On Main St. between 13th and 14th. The First World War uniform worn by Bill Tadsen is on display. He was in the 91st "Wild West" Division with Peter Thompson (pages 223–316).

**NOTE:** The addresses for Beeman through Tull came from the Polk City Directories of Forsyth, Montana, 1912–1916. There were no house numbers. There was no city directory available for 1913.

### MILES CITY

**OLIVE HOTEL**—501 Main Street. Sarah and Tom stayed at this historic hotel in 1913 (page 50). The hotel dates back to 1908 and includes an "antique room," which shows a hotel room just as it was 100 years ago.

**CUSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE**—1000 block of Main Street. The present building was built in 1949 at the same location as the original courthouse. In 1912, Charles Crum and Sharpless Walker prosecuted the men accused in the Bitle murder in the old courthouse (page 28), and John Burgess stood trial there in 1914 (pages 102–105).

**CUSTER COUNTY JAIL**—Behind the courthouse. Unfortunately, Sarah and Tom spent their second night in Miles City here, rather than back at the Olive.

### SOUTH OF MILES CITY

**BROADUS**—South out of Miles City on Hwy 59. Here you can see a good view of the Powder River, immortalized in Montana cowboy lore and by the men of the 362nd Regiment, the Powder River Gang (pages 245–246).