



## GUIDED TOURS

Pioneer Town is open Memorial Day through Labor Day from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Guided tours are approximately two hours long and cost \$7 for adults (age 12 and over), \$4 for children (11 and under) and pre-schoolers are admitted free.

Schools and chartered bus tours are welcome. Pioneer Town provides a great learning atmosphere for those interested in Northeast Montana history.

Groups of 10 or more need to call for an appointment at 406-487-5965. A mobile cart is available for the handicapped.

During the tour you'll discover how thousands of courageous homesteaders lived, worked and played as they struggled to inhabit the vast plains of eastern Montana.

You'll learn about the Great Northern Railroad, which delivered the homesteaders to the eastern Montana plains, and the crossroads of two famous Old West Trails: Sitting Bull's Indian followers traveled the Wood Mountain Trail in their desperate retreat into Canada and the Butch Cassidy-led pack of scoundrels who traveled the Outlaw Trail while fleeing deadly frontier justice.

Rick and Susie Graetz, founders of *Montana Magazine* and *American Geographic Publishing*, in one of their latest books titled *This Is Montana*, called Pioneer Town "One of the finest museums of its kind."

Stop by to find out for yourself.

## PIONEER TOWN & MUSEUM

Located 7 blocks west of Main Street

Call 406-487-5965

write P.O. Box 133, Scobey, Montana 59263

or go to [www.scobeymt.com](http://www.scobeymt.com)

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 4

Date 2/26/21

Bill No. SB 355

# PIONEER TOWN & MUSEUM

-Established in 1965-

## Scobey, Montana

Visit Scobey and the rest of Daniels County and enjoy its many recreational opportunities: hunting and fishing; challenging 9-hole elevated grass greens golf course; bowling alley; swimming pool; racquetball court; roping barn; new gymnasium with indoor walking/running track; Flaxville waterfowl production area; hiking at Eagle's Nest; trap shooting facility; baseball and softball complex; Whitetail Reservoir; parks; campgrounds.

Also enjoy our many eating establishments, two lodging facilities, movie theater, community-owned radio station KCGM 95.7 FM, weekly newspaper, shopping opportunities, long and storied history of excellent musical talent, including the Prairie Symphonette and 14-piece Jack Reiner Big Band, and many well-organized and long-running events.

Transportation assets include: quality airport with courtesy car in Scobey; access to Amtrak rail passenger service and commercial airline connections in Wolf Point; Scobey port of entry along the U.S./Canada international border plus 24-hour port north of Plentywood.

Many friendly folks are waiting to meet and serve you!



Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request.

Produced with Accommodations Tax Funds in Cooperation with Missouri River Country.

Printed in the USA for free distribution on recycled paper.

— Leader Print, Scobey



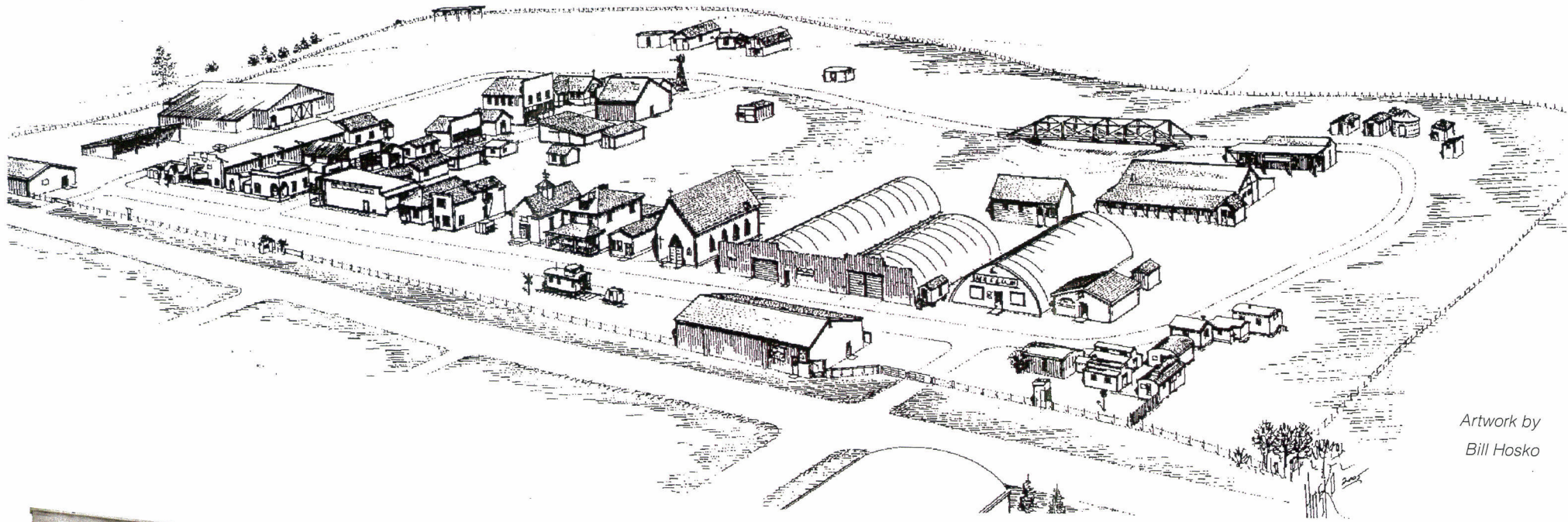
Pioneer Town is an entertaining window into the homestead era of the early 20th century. When the first settlers in Daniels County built their rustic homesteads and storefronts, they never dreamed these buildings would be preserved nearly 100 years later. Instead of tearing down the outdated architecture to make way for modern constructions, the people of Daniels County painstakingly moved their ancestors' buildings to the western outskirts of Scobey. Over the years 35 historic structures from throughout the area were saved. Soon an entire homestead Main Street had been rescued, preserved and christened.

## PIONEER TOWN

Make plans now  
to visit it later!

Over 100 Antique and Classic Cars, as well as Tractors and Farm Equipment on display . . . helping preserve pieces of history and provide viewing for inquisitive historians.

# PIONEER TOWN & MUSEUM



Artwork by  
Bill Hosko



The General Store was a very important part of any growing community. It took a special kind of person to keep one running by knowing everyone's needs at certain times. With various items donated to the museum, it has been stocked to resemble what a general store may have looked like in the homesteading days. This building came from Peerless and was originally the Tande Store, built in 1925 by B.O. Tande. It was purchased by H.R. Hawbaker in 1932 and operated



The Rex Theatre was built before 1913 in old Scobey as a granary and moved to Scobey in 1913, to be renovated later for use as a vaudeville show house and silent movie theatre. Years later it became the Rex Theatre. It was located in downtown Scobey where Independence Bank now stands. The Rex had many owners and operators over the years. Marvin Veis purchased the property and donated it to the museum. It has been the home of the Dirty Shame Show



The Watts House was built in 1916 north of Scobey on the Watts farm for the Steven Watts family. This was one of the first homes in the area with indoor plumbing with a pressure tank and cistern in the basement. It's always a favorite stop for the ladies on our tours.



Our new visitor center is an on going project that includes our offices, special displays, a museum store, library/archives, and a military room. This is the starting point for our tours and has been a tremendous addition to our overall facility and to the community where Nemont provides a large area for community functions and meetings.



The Homestead Shack was built in 1914 by Herbert and Byrl Jacques with help from his father-in-law Sam Richardson. It represents numerous homestead shacks that were found in this area during the influx of homesteaders. The shacks had no running water, no electricity and no modern conveniences. In talking with homesteaders about the living conditions during the homestead days, they all had one comment in common: "You really got to know each other," and somehow looking over the elements, we believe them wholeheartedly. The shack was moved in from the Coal Creek community where it was built and sat for many years. It was donated by Richard Jacques and Helen Hodges in memory of their parents.



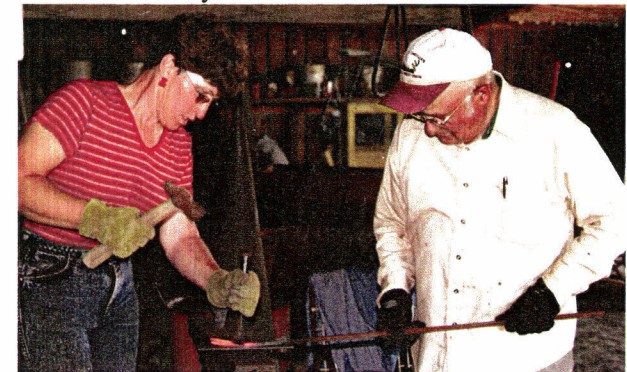
Pioneer Town is the home of many different kinds of tractors, including these two participating in the Pioneer Days parade.



The Tande Bridge, built in 1916 to cross the Poplar River northwest of Scobey, was moved to Pioneer Town in August 2003. It weighs 55 tons, is 14 feet high and 113 feet long.



The Dirty Shame Saloon is the (non-alcoholic) drinking hole in Pioneer Town. It was built around 1913 in Whitetail and was first a grocery store owned by Gus and Esther Wahl. Later it became Swede Johnson's Saloon, and then during prohibition days it became a pool hall. It was named the Crystal Palace when it was moved to Pioneer Town and was the setting for summer theatre for a couple of years. During the annual celebrations it was formerly used for our hometown talent show and renamed as "The Dirty Shame Saloon," home of the Dirty Shame Belles. The name Dirty Shame Saloon originated out of the Prohibition days of the 1920s when a speakeasy in Scobey was raided by law enforcement. The booze was positioned on a trap door and when a raid occurred, the barkeep pulled the lever and the booze fell into the basement onto a pile of rocks, eliminating the evidence. One time when it happened, a customer commented "That's a dirty shame." The name stuck, thus the Dirty Shame Saloon and Dirty Shame Show.



The Blacksmith Shop was built by A.J. Girard and John LaRoche in the winter of 1980-81. Some of the tools in the shop belonged to Tom Smith of Scobey, a blacksmith in Scobey from 1913-46, and Emery Lemieux, who was a blacksmith in Flaxville in the 1920s and 1930s.



## DIRTY SHAME SHOW

The internationally famous Dirty Shame Show occurs annually during Pioneer Days at Pioneer Town. All the fun and entertainment takes place in the preserved Rex Theatre located on the south end of Pioneer Town. It's where the show's glamorous chorus line — the Dirty Shame Belles perform their high-energy dance routines to musical numbers performed by the Dirty Shame Dixieland Band, which always starts playing one-half hour prior to show time.

The Dirty Shame Belles have been an active dance group for nearly 50 years . . . each year there are new faces who join the chorus line.

In between the dancing and music are a sing-along, comedy skits and men's, women's and mixed ensembles.

There are five shows during Pioneer Days— Friday evening at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 1 and 4 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 4 p.m.

Reserve your seats two weeks prior to show time by calling 406-487-5965.



## PIONEER DAYS

A trip back in time to the homestead era comes to life as Pioneer Days & Antique Show is always conducted the last weekend in June at Pioneer Town in Scobey.

During Pioneer Days, which includes free admission to the 20-acre grounds, your day begins with a Thresherman's breakfast of pancakes and sausage in the old cook cars that served workers during the harvest. Next is a stroll down Front Street and Pioneer Avenue where you'll view the operational blacksmith shop, general store (a museum within the museum), Dirty Shame Saloon, churches, one-room country school, lawyer's office, bank, fire hall, city hall, implement dealership and more. Then it's time for the 3 p.m. parade both days featuring antique cars, trucks and tractors. The parade is sandwiched in between two Dirty Shame Shows.

Above, former Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, has joined us a couple of years, and was the proud winner of this tractor, which he keeps in our tractor museum. He was also pretty proud to have the company of the Dirty Shame Belles.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Get Hitched* at Pioneer Town. Our setting offers many opportunities for a theme wedding. Perhaps you're involved in entertainment and want to get married on the stage of the Rex Theatre? Maybe on the porch of the Watts House? Or in the Dirty Shame Saloon? Or in one of three churches.

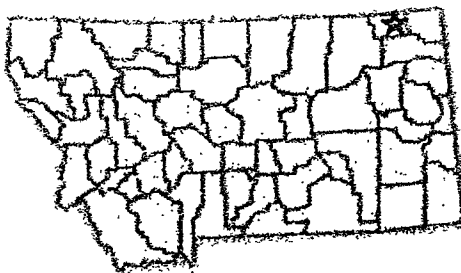
This photo shows a medieval theme wedding in the St. Thomas Catholic Church (built in 1916 in Whitetail) which is now at Scobey's Pioneer Town.

You, too, can conduct your special event at Pioneer Town, whether it be an indoor or outdoor wedding, reunion, reception, small convention, meeting or rally.

Call the Daniels County Museum Association at 406-487-5965 for rates and more information.



# Welcome To Pioneer Town Scobey, MT



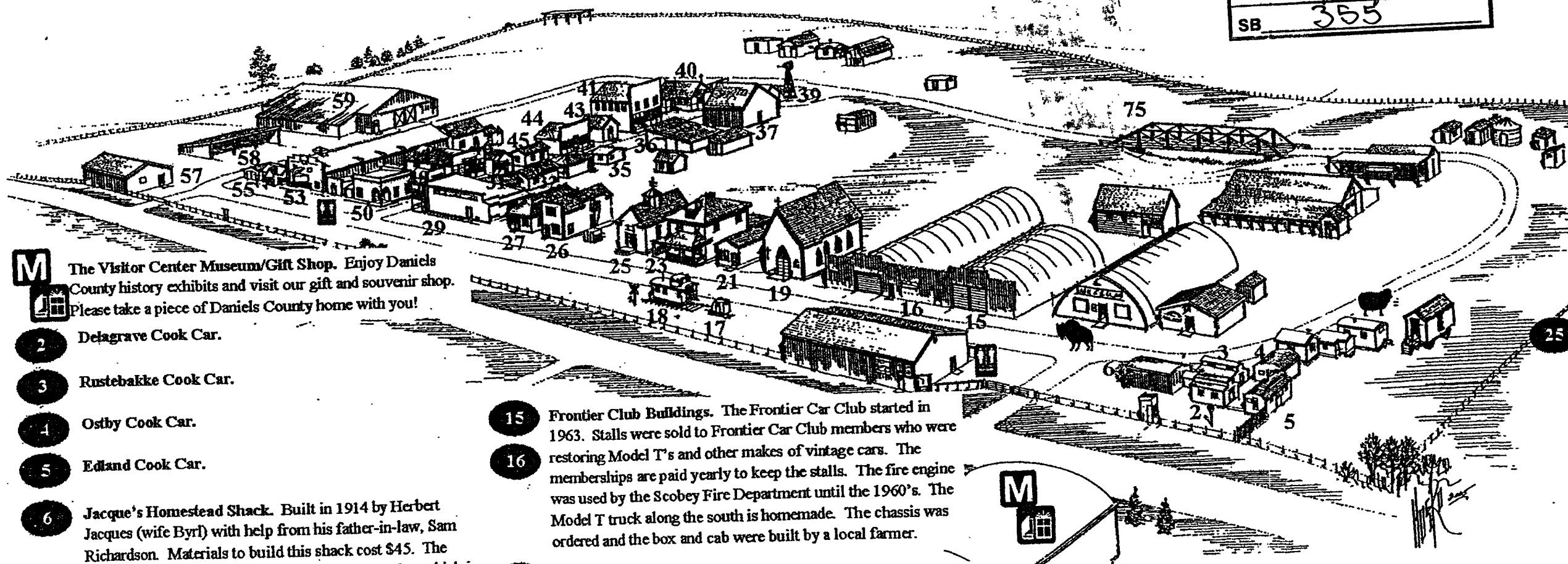
Located on 20 acres, Pioneer Town depicts a town in the early 1900's. The goal is to collect, preserve and display Daniels County history. We hope you enjoy your tour.

~Daniels County Museum Board

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Watts House. This home was built by Theodore Colby in 1916 and was located 6 miles north of Scobey on the Steven Watts farm. The cost to build the house was \$3,801.60. The Watts' moved from a nice farm in Indiana to the Scobey area searching for a dryer climate to aid Mrs. Watts' health problems. The house was donated to the Museum by Mrs. Maybelle Watts Eichom. The house was one of the first homes in Daniels County with a pressure tank, cistern and furnace in the basement, and indoor plumbing which was added in 1917. It has never been wired for electricity. The "built in" cabinetry, including a kitchen pass-through, was almost unheard of in this area at the time as well as the "built in" closets in each bedroom. Using photos and information from the Watts' daughter, Maybelle, the Museum tried to put together the appropriate pieces to make the house look as original as possible.




**M** The Visitor Center Museum/Gift Shop. Enjoy Daniels County history exhibits and visit our gift and souvenir shop. Please take a piece of Daniels County home with you!

- 2 Delagrave Cook Car.
- 3 Rustebakke Cook Car.
- 4 Ostby Cook Car.
- 5 Edland Cook Car.

6 **Jacque's Homestead Shack.** Built in 1914 by Herbert Jacques (wife Byrl) with help from his father-in-law, Sam Richardson. Materials to build this shack cost \$45. The shack was moved from the Coal Creek Community, which is 30 miles NW of Scobey and 1 mile from Canada (North of Peerless). It had no running water or electricity.

 **Sheep Wagon.** The pioneer's version of the travel trailer used in the early 1900's. It was pulled by a team of horses and the shepherd had everything he, his dogs, and his herd needed to live on the prairies. Donated by Harold and Evy Hammerburg.

 **Buffalo Rock.** Buffalo migrated through here from the Missouri River on their way north in the spring and used big rocks on the prairie to rub off their winter coats. This rock was found on Edgar Richardson's farm, just across the line into Canada.

15 **Frontier Club Buildings.** The Frontier Car Club started in 1963. Stalls were sold to Frontier Car Club members who were restoring Model T's and other makes of vintage cars. The memberships are paid yearly to keep the stalls. The fire engine was used by the Scobey Fire Department until the 1960's. The Model T truck along the south is homemade. The chassis was ordered and the box and cab were built by a local farmer.

17 **Railroad Speeder Car**

18 **Great Northern Railway Caboose**

19 **St. Thomas Catholic Church.** Built in 1916 by residents of Whitetail with the help of the Catholic Extension Society. The altar supplies are the original ones, along with some from Poplar, Montana. The Priest's vestments were imported from France and hand embroidered by French cloistered (secluded) nuns. The Sacred Heart Statue was restored by Delma (Graff) Cabaret. The Stations of the Cross were donated by A. J. and Natalie Girard in memory of his parents Joseph and Louise Girard who homesteaded near Madoc in 1911. These are the original Stations from Scobey's St. Philips Catholic Church which was torn down to make room for a new one in 1982. The unusual organ, from the Gleanana, MT, church, is powered two ways—by pumping the foot pedal or an Altar boy could crank the lever on the side.

21 **Dodd School.** The school was named for the Dodd family who donated the land for the school. It opened July 7, 1920 northwest of Whitetail, only a few miles from Canada. There were 14 students in grades 1-8 who came by horseback and kept their horses in the school barn. The first teacher was Miss Laura Burrows. The school originally had an inside entry room partway across its front with hooks for coats and water pail. The other half formed an alcove within the schoolroom where the teacher could stay. The last classes were held in 1948 with 7 students in attendance.

25

**St. Michael's Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church.** This church was built in 1917, 12 miles north of Scobey and 2 miles from the Canadian border with money donated by 16 families, 5 of which still live in Daniels County. The first services were conducted on Easter in 1918. Father William Drapak, grandfather to Mrs. John Hudyma and Mrs. Albert (Marion) Bjarko was one of the first priests. There are no pews as the congregation stood for the services. Women wore white and stood on one side of the church, men wore black and stood on the other side. The few benches were for children and the elderly. All items on the Altar were handmade by the parishioners.



26

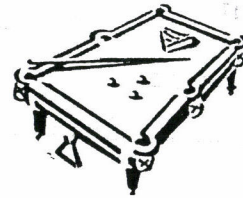
**Lindquist Law Office.** This professional office was originally built in Old Scobey in the early 1900's. It was moved to Scobey to be used as an office for the Scobey Lumber Company, the current site of Grain Growers. It was moved on wooden skids to Scobey's Main Street, between the Court House and Pioneer Inn. It was owned by Thomas F. Clifford, Attorney at Law. Carl Linquist, Attorney at Law, started his practice and worked here from 1932 to 1972. The building and all of Mr. Lindquist's original books and furnishings were donated by him and moved to Pioneer Town.

27

**Snodgrass House.**

29

**Dirty Shame Saloon.** Built around 1913 in Whitetail, this saloon represents the saloons of the wild pioneer days. It was first a grocery store owned by Gus and Esther Vahl. During Prohibition, it became a pool hall and after Prohibition, became Swede Johnson's Saloon, which operated until the 1960's. In 1968 it was purchased by the Edgar & Gerry Richardson family and donated to the Museum in memory of the Charles Richardson and Fred Gilbert families and moved to Pioneer Town. The building was named the Crystal Palace and was the setting for a summer theater for 2 years under the direction of Carl Darchuk. In 1970 the name was changed to The Dirty Shame Saloon and the Dirty Shame Show, under the direction of Ginger Miller and Nellie LaPierre, made its debut and the dancers became known as the Dirty Shame Belles and the show was an instant success. It has been told that the "Dirty Shame Saloon" name came about during Prohibition at a "Speak Easy" in Scobey. The whiskey was placed on a trap door and when revenueurs came, a string was pulled, dropping the whiskey into a pile of rocks down below to get rid of the evidence. A patron was heard saying, "That's a dirty shame!"



31

**Fire Hall.** This was originally the Lutheran parish's garage and was one of the first buildings moved to Pioneer Town. The building was moved by Art Mueller and Everett Cabarett to house the two hose cars which were the first in the community and used by the Scobey Volunteer Fire Department. One of the hose carts was donated by Aime Carrier. The one donated by A. J. Girard was bought at Axle Lawrence's estate sale and restored by John LaRoche. The glass balls filled with water were one of the first attempts at fire extinguishers. They were thrown at the base of the fire and were not very effective.

32

**Telephone Office/Dentist Office.** This building was originally owned by the Stephen Coal Company and was located by the railroad tracks in Scobey on the right of way. It was used as a dray and transfer office and was donated to the Museum by Ramon Trower. The telephone office houses the original switchboards from the telephone office in Scobey that was in service until dial service was installed in 1953. Prior to dial service, each phone line serviced about 4 users. As Scobey grew, sections or "gangs" were added onto the switchboards to handle more users. The operator knew everything that was going on as it was her job to listen and determine when the call was over so she could unplug the two lines being used. During WW II, calls were limited to 3 minutes because of the overload on the existing system. Anona Whipple, chief proprietor, answered the last, "number please" at one minute to midnight, the night before the system was converted to dial. The switchboard was given to Anona and donated to the Museum by her husband, Keith Whipple. The telephone booth came from the Gorham Hotel. The Dentist Office represents some of the dental equipment which belonged to Dr. McDaniel who practiced in Scobey in the 1960's. The S. S. Dental Supply Company of Billings donated many of the other items in the building. Two early day dentists in Scobey were Dr. William Olson (practiced 1910-1940) and Dr. W. P. McDaniel (practiced 1922 until the 1960's).



35

**Woman's Shop.** This was originally a farm home that was owned and donated by the Sherburne family. The clothes and accessories were assembled by Jerry and Joyce Bjarko and Dixie Halverson. The sign on the front of the building was from the original Woman's Shop which operated at 123 Main Street in Scobey.

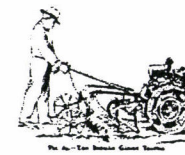


36

**Blacksmith Shop.** Built in the winter of 1980-1981 by A. J. Girard and John LaRoche, this building depicts early day blacksmith shops which were invaluable to farmers and city people alike. They would sharpen tools, make parts that were needed to repair wagons, weld, and make shoes for horse and oxen. The mini wagons, water tank, and coach were made by John LaRoche. Some of the tools belonged to long time Scobey blacksmith, Tom Smith (1913-1946). Other tools belonged to Emery LeMieux, a blacksmith in Flaxville in the 1920's and 30's and donated by his family. Other tools came to the Museum through Canadian relatives of A. J. Girard.

37

**Solberg Implement.** The building was built in 1916 as an implement dealership by the International Harvester Co. at Old Scobey. The building and dealership were sold to Clarence Penn and investors in 1920, forming the Daniels County Implement Company. H. C. Nelson purchased it in 1928 and in 1943 sold it to Chet Solberg. Chet sold the implement dealership in 1974 and donated the building and the contents to the Museum. The original shelving and racks still have repairs in them. The posters on the wall show new cars costing around \$500 and tractors selling for around \$700.



39

**Wind Mill.** This wind mill came from Old Scobey and is like the windmills that were a common site on all farms years ago. The hand pumps would be used whenever the wind didn't blow to keep the water tanks full for cattle or sheep on the prairies. The site of Old Scobey can be seen by looking to the southwest through the windmill.



40

**All Saints Episcopal Church.** On November 1, 1919, All Saints Day, Rev. L. J. Christler, rector of the Episcopal Church of Havre, with the assistance of Mrs. T. W. Collinson, organized the Episcopalians of Scobey and vicinity into what is now known as All Saints Mission. It was built by "the elite" of Scobey, the doctors, lawyers, and "big" business people. Many of the furnishings were made and donated by the members. The Altar candlesticks were donated by Victor Hillstrom, the prayer book racks by Steven Crum, and the organ by Lily Dale Collinson, the doctor's wife, and it cost \$50.

41

**The USA Hotel.** Originally located in Scobey next to Cromwell's Convenience.



43

**City Hall.** This building, the original Scobey City Hall and a jail, were located at 201 and 201 1/2 Main Street. Because the Gorham Hotel (Pioneer Inn) was being built in its spot, it sat in the street for a time before coming to rest on 2nd Avenue where the current Fire Hall is located. The building was used as City Hall, then the JayCee headquarters, and finally moved to Pioneer town in 1986.

44

**The Doctor's Office.**



45

**The Undertaker's Parlor.** This building was originally a house that was donated to the Museum by Mrs. Gus Waller. Gus Waller and Otto King owned and operated the Waller-King Funeral Home starting in 1923. Most of the items in the building belong to early day mortician, the late Gus Waller. Before churches, viewing and embalming was done in the person's home. The basket, seen in the Parlor, was used to pick up bodies for transport from accident scene or other places of death. Hence the term, "basket case." Jack and Carmen Waller Reiner did all of the work on this particular project. Jack worked for his father-in-law, Gus, after going to school and bought the business from Mrs. Waller in 1965, as Gus had passed away in 1964. Waller Funeral Home in Scobey is still operated by their family, Jon and Kris Reiner Baker (Jack and Carmen's daughter).

46

**Barber Shop.**

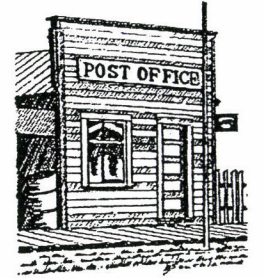


47

**Hawbaker's General Store.** This was originally the Tande Store built in 1925 in Peerless by B. O. Tande. H. R. Hawbaker purchased the store from Tande in 1932 and operated it until the 1960's. It was donated to the Museum by the Hawbaker family in 1968. The store has been stocked to resemble what a general merchandise store may have looked like in the early days of Scobey. The refrigerator case along the back of the store stored a block of ice in each end to keep food cool. Every Thursday, the railroad would bring a refrigerated car containing fish so Catholics could have fish every Friday.

48

**The Post Office.** This building was originally the post office in Madoc. The boxes and fixtures are from the old Flaxville and Scobey post offices. The building was purchased many years ago by Gus Girard, who used it as a granary on his farm north of Madoc, before donating it to Pioneer Town.

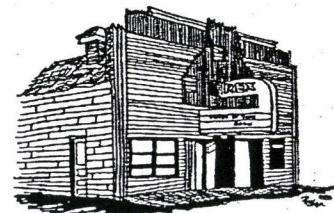


50

**The Bank.** This building was originally built in Whitetail in 1914 as the Security Safe Bank and operated until the late 1940's or early 50's. The business was organized by Ed Lee from Minot, John Borg, John Halvorson from Crosby, and I. O. Bakken and Carl Fjeld of the Whitetail area. In 1942 the bank's name changed to Daniels County State Bank and the business was moved to Flaxville. The building was then used as a grocery store until it was purchased by the Citizen's State Bank of Scobey and donated to the Museum. The two "BANK" signs in the windows are from the building that currently houses Wolfe-Daniels Insurance in Scobey. Marble was used on the counters so the tellers could listen to the ringing sound of the coins dropping on it to determine if the coins were counterfeit.

53

**Rex Theater.** The Rex is a 36' x 96' long building that was built before 1913 at Old Scobey as a granary. There was 30,000 bushels of flax taken out of it and then moved, in one piece, to Scobey in 1913 to be renovated into the Rex Theater. It was located at 204 Main Street, where Independence Bank now stands. It hosted many community events including proms, boxing, banquets, school plays, church services, funerals, graduations, sporting events, roller skating, vaudeville shows, political rallies, informational meetings for farmers and dances. In 1920, the first boy's and girl's basketball games were played here. In 1931, the multi use came to an end as a lobby, balcony, projection room, elevated floor, permanent seating, and sound was added to get the building ready for movies. In 1971, Citizen's



55

State Bank bought the Rex and the property from Stanton Danelson and donated the building to the Museum. Every year the Rex Theater comes alive during the annual Pioneer Days celebration when the community gets together and produces a variety show featuring music, comedy, the Dixieland Band, and the world famous Dirty Shame Belles.



57

**Westland Station.**

58

**Solberg Tractor Exhibit.**

59

**Steam Engine Shed.**

75

**Tractor Storage Building.**

75

**Tande Bridge from North of Scobey.**

