

Herman Schnitzmeyer Timeline

1879 - 1939

- Nov. 1, 1879 Born in Centralia, Illinois
(There has been a significant amount of confusion about his date of birth being 1880 but his draft record states it as 1879.)
- 1900's Operated commercial photography studio in Nashville, Illinois
- 1910 Moved to Montana to homestead on Wildhorse Island
- 1911 Assistant for Riggins Photo Gallery in Dayton
- 1912 Partnered with Louis Desch in photography business in Dayton
- June 29, 1912 Obtained patent on Wildhorse Island homestead at 160 acres
- 1914 Moved to Polson, concentrated on scenic views
- Dec. 1915 Opened photo gallery, Polson Studio, on the National Bank Block in Polson
- 1916 Operated photo studio in the Stoughton Building on D Street in Polson
- 1920's Took photos for the Great Western Land Company for use in real estate brochures and presentations
- 1922 Sold studio business to his apprentice, Julius Meiers, who renamed it Lake City Studio
- 1922 Freelanced photo assignments for the Northern Pacific Railroad
- 1923 Ten week trip for the Northern Pacific in the Yellowstone and Teton Country
- Nov. 1926 Sold equipment, scenic views and negatives to Johan W. Rode
- 1927 Continued with Northern Pacific assignments
- May 1929 Photographed the Cascades for Northern Pacific
- Summer 1929 Photographed Mission Range & Mission Canyon for Northern Pacific
- 1930 Moved to Missoula, lived at the Penwell Hotel
- 1932 Lectured on Photography at the University of Montana in Missoula under a federal WPA grant. Exhibited a 200 photo show at the University Art Gallery
- Mid-1930's Schnitzmeyer's health began to fail and he became paranoid, suspecting that the British were trying to take over America
- Sept. 2, 1939 Herman Schnitzmeyer died at the Thorton Hospital in Missoula. Cause of death was listed as intestinal obstruction and bronchial pneumonia
- Sept. 7, 1939 Buried by Missoula County at the Missoula City Cemetery