



Nels C. Peterson *(1878-1969)*

Sheet metal worker by trade but musician at heart as a long-standing tuba player for Missoula City Band.

1878-Birth. Nels was born on October 19, 1878 in Peshtigo, WI to parents who were from Sweden and Denmark.

Nels had two sisters, Lillian and Hannah.

- **Marriages.** Nels married his first wife, Edla, in 1909. After her death, Nels married his second wife, Mabel, in 1924. Mabel died in 1949. Nels was married to his third wife,

Grace, at the time of his death.

- **1910-Missoula.** Nels came to Missoula and laid roots in his trade as a sheet metal and tin professional.
- **1911-Peterson Sheet Metal and Roofing.** Nels owned and operated this business for more than 50 years. He worked on the new high school in Philipsburg, MT and installed the new ventilation system in 1911. That same year, he worked on the bank in Drummond. In 1933, he put the sheet metal roofing on the Gallatin Brewing Company in Bozeman, MT.
- **Missoula City Band.** A sheet metal professional by trade, Nels held another position that gave him great joy as a tuba player in the Missoula City Band. Nels joined the band almost as soon as he moved here from Wisconsin and continued playing for almost 50 years.
- **Great War.** When Nels registered for the draft at the beginning of the Great War, he listed his occupation as first and sheet metal contractor second.
- **1969-Death.** Nels died on March 30, 1969 in Montana.



musician

Missoula,

Nels Peterson's story told as a segue to the history of the Missoula City Band and told by current band director, Gary Gillette. Missoula City Band established in 1900 is the longest standing performing musical ensemble in Missoula history. The original band venue was an antiquated bandstand located on the lawn of the Missoula County Courthouse. The band eventually gained funding and band shelter located in Bonner Park was built by the City of Missoula. Missoula City Band continues to offer weekly summer concerts for Missoula citizens.