



JOHN 'JACK' A. RICE

- **32nd Missoula County Sheriff.**
- **Born.** 1875 in Clover, Wisconsin.
- **Married.** Emma H. and they had nine children.
- **Died.** December 16, 1935 at his home of an extended illness in Missoula, Montana.
 - **1875.** Jack lived in Drummond. He ran the Helmville Stage which ran from Drummond to Helmville. He also worked on the Danbaur Ranch, located on the north fork of the Blackfoot River near what is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness area. He put up hay at the time when access into the wilderness was nothing but a mere trail.
- **1908.** Jack came to Missoula and worked as the stockyard foreman for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Simultaneously, he worked on the railroad bridge crew.
- **1914.** Jack was the Missoula City Police Chief. One night he arrested a drunken lumberjack. While moving him from the local saloon to the jail, the lumberjack pulled out a .38 revolver from his coat and fired a shot over Rice's shoulder and past his ear. Rice would say in later years, 'We're (law enforcement) not angels, although sometimes we hear the angels sing.'
- **1922.** Elected 32nd Missoula County Sheriff.
- **1925.** An earthquake rattled the Missoula area during the night. Sheriff Rice and his family were in the living quarters adjacent to the County Jail. The Sheriff rushed his family out of their home in fear that the old jail building might come tumbling down as it was swaying wildly. Sheriff Rice began preparations for releasing inmates in case a more severe shock might occur. Damage assessment showed the jail had listed seven or eight inches to the northeast and showed large cracks in two walls.
- **Retirement.** After serving two terms as Sheriff, Jack became a Mercantile Police Officer.
- Socially, Jack was a member of the Elks Lodge and Eagles Lodge.



Grave 6 – Lot 2 – Block 47

John (Jack) was buried in a single grave. It is not known where his wife or children are buried. Little else is known of the man himself.

1925 – An earthquake was felt throughout the entire Northwest from Yellowstone National Park to Spokane, Washington. Three aftershocks rattled the Missoula area. Buildings swayed, items fell from shelves, and automobiles were moved.