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Inscribed Brick For Shepherd's Court

Bricks may be purchased for \$100.00 and will be placed around the statue of Shep. On the three lines below please indicate the inscription for your brick. Size limits your inscription to three lines with a maximum of fourteen characters per line. Spaces between words, dashes, etc. are considered a character.

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River & Plains Society
PO Box 262
Fort Benton, Montana 59442

ORDER FORM

"Man's Best Friend" The Story of "Shep"

The dog that was forever faithful!

(Booklet published by the River & Plains Society)



**\$7.00 Each
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Fort Benton, MT 59442

The Story Of

SHEEP

An unnoticed
and undocumented

Shepherd's body was shipped back East one August day in 1936. From that moment a nondescript sheep dog of pronounced Collie strain was observed meeting each train. It was not until several years later that Ed Shields, a conductor on one of the Great Northern trains, pieced together the story that is known today by dog lovers the world over.

Shep attained almost instant fame throughout the world, sharing headlines with news of the war. Over 50 shepherders offered to give Shep a home, but he would not leave his vigil, awaiting his master's return.

Shep, not a young dog at the time of his masters death, met every train for the next 5-1/2 years!

No longer agile, his hearing and other senses dulled with age, Shep met his last train January 12, 1942. As train #235 pulled up at the Fort Benton depot, bystanders saw him look up when the engine was almost upon him. He moved quickly but slipped on the snowy rails and was hit by the train.

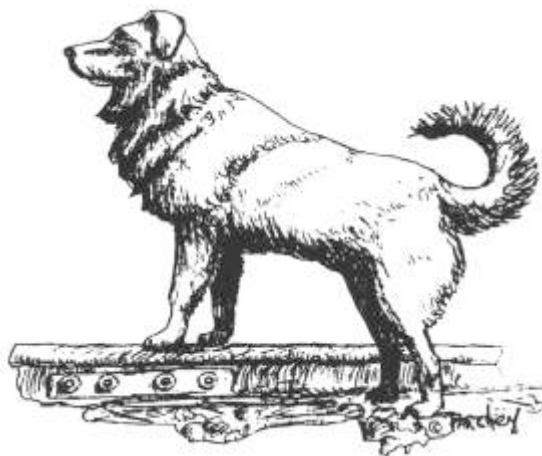
Townfolk buried faithful Shep January 14, 1942 on a bluff overlooking the depot.

His funeral was attended by hundreds, and school was dismissed so the children could attend. The Fort Benton Boy Scout Troop #47 acted as pallbearers and Scout Kenneth Vinion sounded taps at the grave side.

Great Northern employees erected a profile monument of Shep and built a concrete marker in his honor.

The station installed a spotlight which was turned on the grave each night so passengers on evening trains could see the monument.

Fifty-two years later Fort Benton residents and fans of Shep from around the world erected a heroic size bronze statue, created by renowned sculptor Bob Scriver of Browning, Montana. The statue is located on the banks of the Missouri in a courtyard surrounded by personalized bricks in the Fort Benton City Park between the Historic Grand Union Hotel and the Old Bridge.



For further information contact the
Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce,
P.O. Box 879,
Fort Benton, MT 59442
(406) 622-3864

or
The River & Plains Society,
PO Box 262,
Fort Benton, MT 59442
(406) 622-5316

Shep's Grave Site

Shep's grave sits atop the bluff overlooking the abandoned railroad station. The railroad tracks no longer carry passenger trains, only grain cars and switch engines. Nonetheless, the tracks still wind around the bluffs to the outside world, just as they did more than fifty years ago when Shep was waiting for his master.

The concrete obelisk is still there. The wooden silhouette had to be replaced by a steel one a number of years ago.

The Fort Benton Community Improvement Association maintains Shep's Grave Site, relying on donations to fund the maintenance. Fort Benton students clean and paint the site each year.

Shep's grave is on the North edge of Fort Benton. A parking lot and a rough walking trail to the grave site are located on the back side of the bluff. To get there, drive North on St. Charles Street, toward the metal grain elevators and old depot. Drive past the elevators & depot, to the top of the hill, and turn right at the Airport and Signal Point Golf Course sign. The parking lot and trail to the grave site are straight ahead.