

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 1 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2003

From the wagon seat: Happy, healthy New Year from the wagon seat and welcome to the first edition of the Wagon Tongue. I am sure this will be the first of many to come. 2002 was a very significant year for the Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Since October of 1998, the association has come a long way. This year the association became incorporated, recieved a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization number, picked the parade theme, put a float in the parade, and had the September Old Time Social. We operated our mini-museum in donated space at Gramma's Overflow, thanks to Zoe Todd. We met monthly on the second Thursday of each month, had a program for each meeting and sponsored several field trips. We met with the City Council and named the downtown park The Grandma Ennis Park. All of our activities were successful and enjoyed by all who participated. We ended the year with an early Christmas present. It is a pending gift of land north of Madison Foods. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months. 2003 is starting out to be a very promising year for the MVHA. The Board of Directors will need everyone to help this year and into the future. Make a New Year's Resoulution. Plan to attend the meetings, get involved, share your history with us, become a member, plan a charitable gift and help MVHA become an intergal part of our community. We need to preserve our history or lose it. See you at all of our meetings and activities in 2003.

Your president and wagon master, Larry Love

Smitty Overstreet's Dream

Smitty Overstreet wanted to preserve the history of the Madison Valley. She ran an ad in the Madisonian calling for all history buffs. The first get together was October 15th, 1998 with 19 interested people present. Since then we have held monthly meetings the second Thursday of each month. We have had outings, three Old Time Socials, telling of old stories, and many interesting speakers. The June Hartkopf estate left us many items to sell and we have had several garage sales and tables at the bazaar. The outing to Sterling was great fun as was the trip to the Beaverhead County Museum in Dillon with a stop at the Twin Bridges museum. Zoe Todd contributed space in her shop for a display of artifacts and history memorabilia which has been given or loaned to us, such as M.L. Morgan's old saddle and rifle and an 1888 Brand book. Smitty reports that her dream is coming true!!

Membership dues are now due for the 2003 year. Please complete the membership application and pay your dues at the next meeting that you attend or mail your application and dues to the MVHA. Thank you for your continued support. If your name does not appear on the 2002 membership roll on the next page, you did not pay for last year.

Member Application
Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

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Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ Student \$5.00, ___ Individual \$10.00, ___ Family \$15.00, ___ Business \$50.00, ___ Patron \$100.00
(Please select one)

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
 Membership for 2002. Addresses are Ennis unless
 indicated.

Alger, George and Mary Ann 682-7361
 22 Jeffers Rd.
Armstrong, Jean B. 682-4397
 P.O. Box 694
Banks, Robert and Carolyn 683-4867
 515 S. Pacific
 Dillon, Mt. 59725
Barnett, Dode 682-4323
 P.O. Box 186
Bennetts, Chuck 683-4528
 815 S Atlantic
 Dillon, Mt. 59725
Cheney, Roberta 682-4935
 P.O. Box 186
 Cameron, Mt. 59720
Claassen, Beverly 682-5598
 P.O. Box 1375
Clausen, Mary 682-7096
 P.O. Box 1492
Cole, John and Gail 682-7097
 P.O. Box 1464
Collins, James and Norma 682-4987
 P.O. Box 646
Durham, Mona 682-4638
 P.O. Box 214
 Cameron, Mt. 59720
Eldredge, Jerald 685-3478
 P.O. Box 122
 Harrison, Mt. 59735
Eckert, Patsy 682-4256
 P.O. Box 850
France, Johnny 682-7216
 P.O. Box 118
Geddis, Dick and 843-5424
Barbara Brook
 P.O. Box 142
 Virginia City, Mt. 59755
Gleason, Ruby 682-4234
 P.O. Box 65

Gordon, Martin and Victoria 682-7527
 87 Mt. Hwy. 287 N.
Gustafson, Shirley 682-4874
 245 Jeffers Road
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Hanni, Gene and Ethelyn 682-4348
 P. O. Box 1575
Kent, Neil 682-4308
 P.O. Box 8
Kiefer, Larry 665-1075
 104 North Lewis Ave.
 Hardin, Mt. 59034
Klatt, Lester and Bobbi 682-7119
 P.O. Box 224
Labrum, Terry
 2165Aerie Heights Cove
 Sandy, Utah 84092
Larson, Craig 763-789-5975,2989
 2122 45th Ave.NE
 Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Lee, Richard and Rosemary 843-5506
 P.O. Box 306
 Virginia City, Mt. 59755
Love, Larry and Shirley 682-5780
 P.O. Box 1018
McGlynn, Gladys 682-4820
 P.O. Box 182
 Cameron, Mt. 59720
Neville, Don "Kid" 682-4231
 P.O. Box 254
Overstreet, P.S. "Smitty" 682-4405
 450 Varney Road
Pasley, Lucy 682-7366
 P.O. Box 644
Plath, Phyllis 682-5480
 P.O. Box 27
Rochez, Fred and Darlene 682-5794(Ennis)
 31 Whitewind Lane
 Las Vegas, NV. 89110

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Membership 2002 cont. from page 2

Rummel, Michael P 619-593-1988
10484 Gretler Place
La Mesa, CA 91941
Rybus, Jane J. 682-4377
P.O. Box 295
Shores, Karen 682-4935
P.O. Box 228
Cameron, Mt. 59720
Smith, Janet 682-4636
P.O. Box 1106
Cameron, Mt. 59720
Thexton, Don 682-
4833
335 Varney Road
Todd, Dick and Polly 842-
5175
41 Duncan District Rd.
Sheridan, Mt. 59749
Todd, Peggy 682-
4349
P.O. Box 35
Todd, Zoe 682-4360
P.O. Box 531
Townshend, Deb 682-7571
P.O. Box 221
Cameron, Mt. 59720
Valgenti, Frank 586-0256
P.O. Box 9
Bozeman, Mt. 59721
Walsh, Eugene and Lois 682-4898
3055 Hwy 287 North
Cameron, Mt. 59720

History Of the Town of Ennis

Compiled by Jane Jeffers Rybus from
Pioneer Trails and Trials

William Ennis, an Irishman and a freighter, brought his hundred or so horses and mules to the Madison Valley for the lush grass that grew here, and to rest them after hard trips between the gold fields in Montana and the gold fields in Colorado. Once here he looked around and liked what he saw. He had his men build a one-room log cabin and homesteaded here, bringing his wife, Katherine Shriver Ennis and baby daughter, Jennie, to the dirt-roofed, dirt-floored cabin in 1863. Two years later he moved a two-story house from Virginia City for his family.

The William Ennis General Store opened in 1879. Mail was handled there and in 1881 it became a Post Office, with William Ennis as postmaster. His daughter, Jennie Ennis Chowning succeeded him and Mrs. Chowning's daughter, Winnifred Chowning Jeffers, succeeded her. Thus three genera-

tions were postmasters in the Ennis Post Office for 84 years.

In 1882 the Ennises moved into a 13-room mansion, freeing their old, two-story home to be a hotel which was run by Mrs. Ennis. In 1889 the Ennises opened a livery stable and in 1891 they started a telegraph service. The son of William and Katherine Ennis, William John Ennis, operated a blacksmith shop and opened the first saloon.

A bridge was built over the Madison River in 1871. The first school was in the Ennis home and was taught by Katherine Ennis. The first school building was constructed in 1910. A high school opened in 1922 and the first graduating class was in 1925. The present elementary school is named the Jennie Ennis Chowning Elementary School, honoring the daughter of the town's founders who always supported the town's teachers and the school.

The first church in Ennis was the Methodist in 1916. St. Patrick's Catholic Parish was created in 1917.

Dr. Thomas B. Marquis opened a doctor's office in Ennis in 1898 and stayed until 1904.

A hall was constructed in 1899 and was later turned over to the Woodmen's brotherhood. It was used for club meetings, church services, community dances, school classrooms, moving picture theater, and theater performances. It now houses the IGA Economy Store.

Between 1898-1900 telephone lines were built linking ranch homes. These lines were first linked at the Ennis/Chowning General Store without a switchboard.

The Southern Montana Bank opened a branch in Ennis in 1909 which continued until 1935. Later Peter Combs started the First Madison Valley Bank at the same location. The Valley Bank, a branch of the Belgrade Bank, was built in 2000.

The first drug store was started in 1912, later becoming Rank's Drug Store. The new Ennis Pharmacy in the same location is owned by Marie Hajny

In 1910 Waller S. Angle opened a blacksmith shop which evolved over the years into a hardware store, owned and managed by members of the Angle family until it was sold in 1998. This business was run by the same family the longest of any other business in the valley. In 2002 the Madison Valley Women's Club bought the vacant Angle Hardware building and now operate the Nearly New and Vintage Attic there.

Hist of the Town of Ennis cont. on pg 4

***History of the Town of Ennis continued
from page 3***

After William Ennis's untimely death in 1898 at the hands of a former friend, his wife, Katherine, continued to live a productive life until her death in 1931 at the age of 96. She had donated land for the school, for the Methodist Church, land for the Forest Service building, then on Hugel Street, land for the VFW building, and the land for Grandma Ennis Park on Main Street. The welfare of the town and its people was ever uppermost in her mind.

Thus what Katherine and William Ennis started in a one-room dirt-floored log cabin has developed into the thriving little town of Ennis.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Larry Love
Vice-President: Zoe Todd
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Phyllis Plath
Director: Jane Ryus
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Smitty Overstreet
Jane Rybus

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Association
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Ennis, Montana 59729

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Volume 1 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2003

From the wagon seat: The Madison Valley History Assoc., Inc. has moved forward into its next phase to preserve Madison Valley History. Joe and Stephanie Vujovich have donated land next to the Madison Foods. This was announced at the Jan. 2003 meeting and a sign placed on the land announcing the "Future Home of the Madison Valley History Assoc., Inc. Museum and Cultural Center". The easy part is done and now our work begins! We need to come up with plans of what we want our building to look like, of what we want in our building and how we want our building to serve the public and the community. We need your ideas, suggestions, and input. We had a great planning meeting in March and have compiled a long list of fantastic ideas but need more. Do you know of any contractors, craftsmen, etc. who could step forward and help in our endeavor?

It is not too early to be thinking about your charitable contributions for tax year 2003 and beyond. As we move on into the future with our project, your generous donations today are an investment in assuring the continuing development of this project for tomorrow. Remember that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please think about some of the following ideas. Of course, consult with your legal advisor first. Endowment funds, memorial funds, charitable trusts, revocable living trusts, life insurance policies and annuities, coins, stamps, art work, collectibles, IRA's, 401ks, retirement accounts, real estate and property, mutual funds shares, stocks, bonds, CDs, municipal bonds, and cash donations. If you have any questions, talk to any history association member, come to the monthly meetings every 2nd Thursday or call me at 406-682-5780

Your president and wagon master, Larry Love

Museums to visit The Museum of the Yellowstone in West Yellowstone, Mt. will re-open for the season on Saturday, May 10, with free museum admission. Museum Preview Party will be from 6-8pm on Friday, May 9. Call (406)646-7461 for more information. Train Day Celebration is Wednesday, June 11 also with free museum admission.

Membership dues are now due for the 2003 year. Please complete the membership application and pay your dues at the next meeting that you attend or mail your application and dues to the MVHA. Thank you for your continued support. If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board membrs. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish.

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P.O. Box 694
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Vumie Kay
P.O.Box 186
Bayley, Bob and Shirley 682-4102
P.O. Box 399
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815 S. Atlantic
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Cheney, Roberta 682-4935
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P.O. Box 1492
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P.O. Box 1378
Durham, Mona 682-4638
P.O. Box 214
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Hale, Dave and Pat 682-4191
573 Mt. Hwy. 287 #6
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P.O. Box 8
Kirby, Jack and Barbara 682-4881
P.O. Box 692

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P.O. Box 224
Lee, Richard & Rosemary 843-5506
P.O. Box 306
Virginia City, Mt. 59755
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LaMesa, CA 91941
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Walsh, Eugene & Lois 682-4898
3055 Hwy 287 North
Cameron, Mt. 59720

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual membership meeting of the Madison
Valley
History Association, Inc. will be held on May 8 at the
VFW Hall at 7:00pm. Business will be election of
directors and amendments to the By-Laws.

Thank You for your Membership
 New Members for 2003

- Chamberlin, Norman H
 P.O. Box 335
Coffman, Ted 682-4567
 P.O. Box 961
Crennen, Margaret Ann 443-2911
 919 Maudlin
 Helena, Mt. 59601
Dunn, Richard & Barbara 207-767-5740
 281 Spurwink Ave.
 Cape Elizabeth, ME
Forney, Gary R. 682-4096
 P.O. Box 2701
Betty Hudson Family
 8818 McCraw Drive
 Dallas, TX 75209
Love, Carole 683-2181
 1000 Lover's Leap Rd.
 Dillon, Mt. 59725
Love, Marvin & Terry 266-4294
 P.O. Box 643
 Townsend, Mt. 59644
Love, Roy 801-745-9489
 1241 N. 7100E
 Huntsville, UT. 84317
Madison Drilling and Pump 682-4997
 Supply P.O. Box 1378
Vetter, Frank 425-746-1936
 4568 151 Ave. SE
 Bellevue, WA 98006
Wilkins, Joe & Toby 682-4548
 P.O. Box 531
Wortman, Lloyd 682-4823
 P.O. Box 4325
 Highway 287 North

From Bozeman Chronicle, Jan. 29, 1935
 A pair of well-paunched preliminary "boys" stole the show in the Ennis fight card Saturday night, local people who saw the battles say. The "boys" were "One-Eye" Murphy, aged 68 of Ennis and a man called "Friday" aged 59, of Jeffers. They fought a draw after they had both fallen down when they bumped heads coming out at the first bell. The other fights were: Orr Combs and Tommy Campbell drew the main event; Joe McGuire and Speedy O'Neil broke even in the semi-windup; Toughy Manewerry knocked out Fritz Gale in the second frame; Paul Linker and Jim Womack fought a draw; Clayton Funk won a technical kayo over Bill Powell in the second round. Jimmy McCusker of Bozeman refereed the bouts. Researched and contributed by Smitty O.

THE MADISON COUNTY SIDESADDLE CLUB..1958-1996

The Madison Valley Sidesaddle Club was formed as a parade group in Virginia City, the territorial capitol of Montana, to entertain tourists. They were so well received they soon became a drill group as well. There were nine charter members. They were: Wilma Hudson, Gwen Birrer, Katie Williams, Mary Stiles, Barbara Brook, Millie Gustin, Ethelyn Hanni, Ellen McKenzie and Brownie Reynolds. Some of these ladies rode with the club only the first year, while others were members for many years. During the time the club was in existence, the following members rode in excess of 20 years: Nance Kilgore Myers, Lois Walsh, Eileen Walsh White, Mary Stiles and Patti Miller.

The Sidesaddle Club has performed in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington. The club has collected an impressive array of trophies, ribbons, comendations, and monetary awards. The club has a very lovely display in the Virginia City Historical Museum. Originally, most of the members were either the wives or daughters of the local ranchers, and most of the horses were equally adept at cutting a cow or performing an intricate drill, often at a gallop. Members were of various ages, ranging from teenagers to grandmothers. A common denominator was that all liked horses and enjoyed riding. Their wish was to project some of the charm and grace of yesteryear. The only age restriction was that one be at least fourteen.

At one time we had a charter member, Mary Stiles, who was 72 years old, still riding, and also had a daughter and two granddaughters riding with the group. Over the years we had several mother-daughter members as well as sisters riding the same time. The Club had quite a bit of family involvement..often having family bar-be-ques or picnics. Sometimes we had husbands ride as escorts during parades and they dressed to complement the costumes worn by the ladies.

Many of the sidesaddles used by the group were over one hundred years old, and most were custom made at the time..so each saddle was different. It was quite difficult to find a side saddle in riding condition.. even to find one in repairable condition was quite a feat!!!The costumes were reproductions of authentic riding habits of the 1800's.

Over time the group was the subject for articles in several magazines including the SMITHSONIAN saying "There is no equestrian form as elegant and feminine as
 (continued on page 4)

Madison Valley Side Saddle Club (cont from page 3)

riding aside. For those who practice the art, a feeling of grace and serenity, of tradition and style, are all part of the satisfaction of riding aside.

“Probably the most elegant modern day example is a group of women in Montana who have formed the Madison County Sidesaddle Club. Wearing clothes made from 19th century designs, they perform throughout several states in rodeos and parades. They do not get paid, but they seem to enjoy the precision and beauty of the sidesaddle drills in close formation.”
researched and submitted by Lois Walsh

For your reading pleasure A Madison Valley book Early Days in the Madison Valley by James Spray. This book is available for reading at the Madison Valley Public Library but cannot be checked out. Many Madison Valley old timers have a copy so you might check around to see if you can find one to borrow.

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Vice-President: Zoe Todd
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Phyllis Plath
Director: Jane Ryus
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Contributing editors: Smitty Overstreet
Lois Walsh

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Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by First Madison Valley Bank.

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Volume 1 Issue 3

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July 2003

From the wagon seat: July 4th has come and gone again. I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and while you are relaxing, be thinking about new ideas for our future museum. The land is surveyed and staked, environmental assessment is going on and then the final county approval. We are excited and overwhelmed by the very generous amount given to us by the Albert and Violet Thexton estate. Truly, it is tremendous and we thank them for helping us. Remember that we are an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible.

The 4th of July parade was a great success. Our entry into the parade was 2nd or honorable mention in the best use of the parade theme and third in horse drawn vehicle category. Congratulations to all of you who contributed to that endeavor. It was great!

Our mini-museum at Grandma's Overflow will be open during the same hours as the store. It is hoped that when Zoe has her flea market going on, we will be open on Sunday. Check for times with a board member. Volunteers are needed!!

Monthly meetings continue during the summer and at these meetings we will have brain storming sessions and programs in addition to the business meeting. I hope to see you all at the meetings. It helps to put them down on the calendar. We will be selling tickets for a signed print from Ducks Unlimited by Wayne Dowdey of bison and geese. This will be raffled off at our Sept. 21 Old Time Social. See you there!

Your president and wagon master, Larry Love

4th of July Parade a success!!

Thanks to the able direction of Darlene (Neville) and Fred Rochez, MVHA had an entry in the parade. They used a 100 year old carriage once owned by Thomas Thexton Ranch and "Kid" Neville had it restored. Following the theme of Western Humor, our entry was a "Shot Gun" Wedding. Thanks go to the following: Don "Kid" Neville who played the distraught groom; Karen Shores was his intended--8 months pregnant; Dick Todd played Karen's father carrying a realistic double barrel shot gun constructed by Fred Rochez; Beverly Claassen played the determined mother-in-law--rolling pin in tow; Les Kilman was the preacher man getting everyone to the church on time. The procession was led by Mary Ann Algers and Shirley Love, bridesmaids, carrying the new history association banner, obtained by Zoe Todd and donated by Pepsi. Special thanks to Glen and Loine Reinhardt for the use of the carriage horse who is at least 1/4 as old as the carriage. And as the buggy left the parade area the bridal bouquet was caught by Ethelyn Hanni!! Thanks to all who helped and supported our endeavor!!

Membership dues are now due for the 2003 year. Please complete the membership application and pay your dues at the next meeting that you attend or mail your application and dues to the MVHA. Thank you for your continued support. If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board members. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish.

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<u>Cole, Gail</u> P.O. Box 1464	682-7097
<u>Hanni, Gene and Ethelyn</u> P.O. Box 1575	682-4348
<u>Kiefer, Larry</u> 104 North Lewis Ave. Hardin, Mt. 59034	665-1075
<u>Labrum, Terry</u> 2165 Aerie Heights Cove Sandy, Utah 84092	
<u>Larson, Craig</u> 2122 45th Ave N.E. Columbia Heights, Mn 55421	763-789-5975,2989
<u>McCaw, Susan</u> P.O. Box 1569	682-4995
<u>Neville, Don "Kid"</u> P.O. Box 254	682-4321
<u>Shipman, Verta</u> P.O. Box 632	682-4279
<u>Valgenti, Frank</u> P.O. Box 9 Bozeman, Mt. 59715	586-0256
<u>Watson, Emily Angle</u> 3803 Coulson Road Billings, Mt. 59101	252-6766

Thank you for your membership

New members for 2003 <u>Braxton Ranch Corporation</u> P.O. Box 48 Farmington, Mo. 63640	573-760-8900
<u>Carlson, Jim</u> P.O. Box 61 McAllister, Mt. 59740	682-3844
<u>Clark, Ed and Merrillyn</u> P.O. Box 572	682-4679
<u>First Madison Bank</u> P.O. Box 307	682-4215
<u>Losee, Dr. Ron & Olive</u> 381 Varney Road	682-4267
<u>Lounsbury, John</u> P.O. Box 334 McAllister, Mt. 59740	682-3239
<u>Roedel, Judy</u> P.O. Box 232	682-4960
<u>Smith, Phyllis</u> 520 South Wilson Bozeman, Mt. 59715	587-9273
<u>Vujovich, Joe & Stephanie</u> P.O. Box 205	682-7165
<u>Womack, General James</u> 208 E. Bannack, Dillon, Mt. 59725	

Son of Ireland-Father of Madison County by Gary R. Forney

Early July is an especially appropriate time to consider the life of one of Madison County's early residents and founding fathers-William Ennis. William-the sixth of eleven children to John and Mary Ennis-was born on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, in 1828 at the village of Kirkestown in County Down, Ireland. In 1842, William joined many others who were the vanguard of millions of Irish immigrants to the United States and Canada during the next ten years. Prior to his departure Ennis may have seen the first issues of the popular newspaper, *The Nation*, a paper which brazenly promoted the cause of Irish Nationalism, and featured articles by such leading dissidents as John Mitchel, Jane Algee(Lady Wilde), and Thomas Francis Meagher. It is unlikely, however, that William Ennis--or anyone else--could have predicted the dramatic course of events which the paper would stimulate, or that he would come to meet one of these controversial Irishmen halfway around the world.

William Ennis arrived in the United States through the port of Boston, but lived and attended school in the community of Holyoke. William found an apprenticeship as a "moulder" but soon left Massachusetts to seek his fortune in the west. His first stop was in Detroit, Michigan, where Ennis lived with an uncle and first found work as a mechanic, then as a conductor, before earning a position as Roadmaster for the Chicago & Rock Island Railway.

Seeking new opportunities, however, William left the railroad to begin a freight wagon business serving the goldfields of Colorado and established a general store in Central City. In addition to building his financial future, William found his life partner. Katherine Shriver was a school teacher living in Iowa when she met William. Following a brief courtship, William and Katherine travelled to her family home in Ohio and, under the deepening clouds of Civil War, they were married on August 5, 1861.

By the early spring of 1863 Ennis decided to join the thousands of others who were seeking their fortunes in the new gold camps of the Idaho Territory. While Katherine-who was pregnant--returned to her parent's home in Ohio, William treked westward with a train of emigrants, arriving in Bannack on June 10, 1863. As most new arrivals, Ennis quickly moved on to the new boom camps of the Alder Gulch where he established himself as a reliable freighter and very capable businessman.

Recognizing the need of providing for his stock, as well as those of the rapidly growing population along the Alder Gulch, Ennis expanded into the business of hay merchant. William was greatly impressed by the farming and ranching potential of the Madison River valley, and on July 5, 1863 led a crew of men out of Virginia City, up the Daylight Gulch to Moore's Creek, and followed the creek down to the floor of the Madison River valley. Ennis put his crew to work cutting the lush growth of grass and set to work on building a cabin for himself. Reportedly, his cabin was on the bank of Moore's Creek at the point where it intersects the present-day Main Street in the town of Ennis. William returned to Virginia City to file a homestead and townsite claim on August 13--the same day his daughter, Jennie, was born in Ohio.

**Son of Ireland-Father of Madison County,
continued from page 2**

Ennis prospered in his new enterprises and in the autumn of 1864, he left his business operations in trusted hands and went to Ohio for an eagerly awaited reunion with Katherine-and an introduction to his daughter. The little family travelled west in the early part of 1865 arriving at Virginia City in May, where they made their home until the following spring. The Ennis family were among the prominent guests at the social events hosted by the Acting Governor and former Irish revolutionary, Thomas Francis Meagher. William also used the autumn to build an addition to the original Moore's Creek cabin and he and Katherine made an addition to their family-William John ("Will") Ennis was born January 29, 1867.

Ennis aggressively developed his business interests to serve not only the needs of the Alder Gulch communities, but also a growing number of settlers in the Madison River valley. Among the enterprises he established were a general store in 1873, a hotel and boarding house and livery service in 1889 and telegraph service in 1891. The quality of life for the Ennis family had also significantly improved with the construction of a fifteen room "mansion" in 1882. Ironically, in a time filled with happiness, prosperity, and many friends, it would be one of those friends who would bring great sadness to the Ennis family.

Martin Peel was among the first acquaintances William Ennis had made after arriving in Alder Gulch and the men had worked together on a few projects. In May of 1897, however, a small building--commonly described as a "hall"-which was partially owned by Ennis, located in the settlement of Jeffers, caught fire one night and burned to the ground. Rumors soon spread that Peel had set the fire from a sense of jealousy towards the affluence of his old friend.

Although Peel maintained his innocence, the gossip openly persisted and was a festering source of humiliation. Apparently, however, neither Peel nor Ennis made any attempt to meet face-to-face regarding the matter. On June 18, 1898 both men, co-incidentally, were visiting Virginia City. Ennis was standing in front of the Madison House Hotel talking with L.S. Briggs when Peel approached, drew his gun and fired a single shot into Ennis. Peel immediately turned and ran to the sheriff's office where he reportedly exclaimed, "I've shot my friend." Meanwhile, William was carried into a room of the hotel, and a friend ran across the street to the telegraph office and sent a message to the Ennis station where his daughter, Jennie, happened to be on duty. Jennie urgently notified Will of the tragedy to their father, and Will immediately rode to Virginia City--arriving approximately an hour after the assault. Although alive, William was badly wounded and in great pain. An examination of Ennis revealed the bullet had passed through the intestines, split the spleen and lodged in his spine. In addition to being attended by local physicians, the family also brought in two surgeons from Helena. By the time doctors arrived at his bedside, however, William knew his wound was fatal and he refused any surgery. After suffering for several days, William Ennis finally died on July 4, 1898. Researched and submitted by Gary R. Forney.

MVHA, Inc Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held May 8,'03 at the VFW Hall. Larry Love and Neil Kent were re-elected to the board of directors. Stephanie Vujovich was elected as a new director and Shirley Love was elected to fill the unexpired term of Phyllis Plath. At the reorganizational board meeting on June 5,2003, the following directors were re-elected: Larry Love, President; Zoe Todd, Vice Pres; Neil Kent , Treasurer; and Jane Rhybus was elected Secretary.

For your reading pleasure

For your fiction reading try Blind Your Ponies by Stanley Gordon West. The setting for this novel is Willow Creek, Mt. All the place names are true even the bicycle built for two down at the Willow Creek Cafe but the story and characters are fiction. The theme is about playing basketball in a small school with only 5 or 6 boys on the team and trying to live the impossible dream. Madison Valley Public Library has a copy.

Correction: Early Days in the Madison Valley by James Spray is available for check out at the Madison Valley Public Library

Have you visited our mini-museum?

It is located in Grandma's Overflow due to the generous donation by Zoe Todd. 163 people have stopped by and signed the guest book since we started keeping records in 2000. Two foreign countries are represented and 23 states with 10 visits from Idaho, 9 from California, 8 from Illinois, 6 from Washington and 38 from Montana. A lot of MVHA members have not visited our museum yet or at least have not signed the guest book. So make a point to stop by this summer. We can use volunteers to help catalog artifacts (training provided) and to help keep the museum open for visitors. *****

*******Sidesaddles: What are they?**

In the April issue, Lois Walsh presented an article about the sidesaddle club. A sidesaddle differs a great deal from western saddles. A sidesaddle has one stirrup and two horns both on the left side as it was considered unladylike for women to ride astride. The top horn is rather straight up and down...the right leg or the rider goes around this horn and over to the left side of the horse's neck. The lower horn is somewhat curved and the left upper leg of the rider fits in the curve of this horn. A sidesaddle has only one stirrup which is on the left side. One must ride a very short stirrup as the left leg above the knee should fit rather snugly against the lower horn.

Riding habits include a long skirt that covered every inch of a lady's ankle. With both legs on the left side of the horse a riding crop is carried in the right hand to cue the horse on that side. It is desirable to have a very well mannered horse to accommodate this unique style of riding.

Sidesaddles are much more delicate and less sturdy than western style saddles. Most of the saddles used by the sidesaddle group are in excess of one hundred years old, and no two are alike as most were custom made. Submitted by Lois Walsh.

Sale of Mountain Lillies

J.M. Conway of Billings accompanied W. C. Dygert of the same place, was in the city the earlier part of the week and before leaving completed a deal with **M. L. Morgan** of the Madison valley by which he became possessed of the latter's band of celebrated Mountain Lillies. The name "Mountain Lilly" is some what of a misnomer, for instead of being the beautiful wild flower of the hills with its delicate white and pink petals and elusive fragrance it applies to a band of horses owned by Mr. Morgan and known as the sturdiest, pluckiest, prettiest and most frolicsome little horses on all the southern range.

S. V. Stewart acted as negotiator between the contracting parties and later drew the papers consummating the deal. Mr. Morgan agreed to sell the entire band, although he could not designate the exact number contained therein, and stipulated that he would round up at least 300. Mr. Conway thought that Mr. Morgan might "hold out" on him and insisted he should have 60 days after the final round up in which to search for any animals that had not been turned in. Mr. Morgan showed his good faith by asking Mr. Stewart for a clause in the contract binding Mr. Conway to find and pay for any that had been overlooked.

The price received has not been made public but it is understood that both parties are satisfied with the bargain. (From *The Times*, Virginia City, Montana newspaper, May 11, 1906) submitted by Smitty Overstreet

Madison Valley History Association
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by Madison Drilling and Pump Supply. Monte and Dixie Davis

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors

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Vice-President: Zoe Todd
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Jane Rybus
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Director: Stephanie Vujovich

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Gary Forney
Smitty Overstreet
Lois Walsh

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 1 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2003

From the wagon seat: The summer has gone by very fast. Here it is October, the days are getting shorter and cooler, leaves are starting to turn, elk are bugling, snow is in the high country, snowbirds are getting ready to leave and the association keeps on meeting every month.

The history association has been asked to give tours of main street Ennis. Jane (Jeffers) Rybus, Neil Kent, Darlene (Neville) Rochez and I did just that. We gave one tour for the WOW (Women of the Wild) group and another tour during the Fly Fishing Festival. As a result of the tours, we have started to get a better history of main street. We had a table at the Fly Fishing Festival and it certainly did give us some extra exposure. Our annual Old Time Social was a great success. Friends got to see each other and talk with people they have not seen in some time. There were even some tall tales shared about that great fishing or hunting trip. Thanks to Zoe Todd for heading the committee and everyone who helped her out or brought cookies. As we head into the winter months, we need suggestions for good programs. If you have a friend who is an architect give us a call. We need to start getting some designs for our museum. Remember, our long term goal of a permanent museum is still on track. Everyone needs to remember that if we don't preserve the history of the Madison Valley, we will lose it. Help the MVHA do just that by volunteering, writing stories, coming to meetings, making suggestions, donating artifacts and money, etc. See you at the next meeting, November 13 at 4:00pm at VFW in Ennis.

Your president and wagon master, Larry Love

Raffle Winner Marlene Culver of Ennis is the winner of the Summer raffle for the Mission Mountain Rendezvous autographed print by Wayne Dowdy with frame by "Kid" Neville. Thanks to all the history members who sold raffle tickets and to all the fine people who helped out the history association by buying one or more raffle tickets. We will build that museum one dollar at a time! Congratulations, Marlene!

For your reading pleasure: Montana 1878 Tough Trip Through Paradise by Andrew Garcia. Garcia left the Army at 23 and went out with a party of traders to make a living among the Indians in the Montana wilderness. Soon he acquired the name "Squaw Man" and an Indian wife--the first of three. Indians, traders, trappers and the "Boys in Blue"--all were a part of his "paradise" between two worlds and two eras of history in the West. This is his story, discovered in a dynamite box in a cabin where he died at the age of 88. This book is available for check out at the Madison Valley Public Library.

History Tidbits: From May 9, 1919 *Madisonian*: Mrs. Harry W. Baker, proprietor of the Trail cafe at Ennis announces as a grand opening event, an excellent chicken dinner Sunday, May 11, 1919. Everything served by Mrs. Baker will be of the highest degree of excellence. She respectfully solicits the liberal patronage of the public. (submitted by Zoe Todd)

Membership dues have now all been paid for the 2003 year. Thank you for your continued support!! If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board members. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming new members to our organization.

Member Application

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

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Student \$5.00() Individual \$10.00() Family \$15.00() Business \$50.00() Patron \$100.00()
(Please select one)

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Memberships for 2003. Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated. Please refer to previous issues for complete membership listings.

Thank you for Renewing

Crennen, Martin and Margaret Ann

919 Mauldin 406-443-2911

Helena, Mt. 59601

Oliver, Mary 682-4215

P.O. Box 84

Maitin, Joseph and Margaret 682-4466

P.O. Box 6

Thank you for your membership

New members for 2003

Beals, Jack and Sally 503-639-9478

18700 S.W. Tualata Ave.

Lake Oswego, Or. 97035

Bishop, Storrs 682-4641

P.O. Box 667

Clements, Rita

3900 Brookie Lane (Summer address)

Island Park,

1357 Dorthea Rd (winter) 562-697-1215

La Habra Heights, CA 90631-8181

Dick, Nancy 406-646-7958

208 Marina Loop

W. Yellowstone, Mt. 59768

Heaston, Pattie

682-4193

1495 Hwy 287N

Cameron, Mt. 59720

Lovelace, John and Ferne

P.O. Box 187

Grand Junction, Az. 86023

Mayne, Mike and Patty 682-7154

2060 Hwy 87N (Summer)

Cameron, Mt. 59720

2207 Raleigh Ave.(winter) 940-574-0446

Costa Mesa, CA. 92627

Miller, Ed and Linda 682-5548

1475 Hwy 287N #1

Cameron, Mt.59720

O'Neel, Ginny and Jack

P.O. Box 1526 (Summer)

Ennis, Mt. 59729

P.O. Box 466 (Oct.-May)

Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Rohrbaugh, Miriam & Richard

1475 Hwy 287 N (summer)

Cameron, Mt. 59720

121 Touchstone Ter.(winter)

Lake Oswego, OR. 97035

Smith, Sally

406-683-2198

P.O. Box 547

Dillon, Mt. 59725

Spann, Jim and Jane

682-5346

1413 Hwy 287 N

Cameron, Mt. 59720

Stewart, Marvin

406-683-5313

P.O. Box 1320

Dillon, Mt. 59725

Stiles, Mary

P.O. Box 186

Virginia City, Mt. 59755

Stokes, Ken and Kristin

775-246-3483

119 Hillcrest Circle

Dayton, NV 89403

Taton, Lucy

406-646-9751

385 Lake View Rd

West Yellowstone, Mt. 59758

Weigand, Michael and Patti

805-498-9987

Box 1126

West Yellowstone, Mt. 59758

Wondrak, Judy

406-646-4976

447 Lakeview Rd

West Yellowstone, Mt. 59758

Wright, Alice

4494 W. Pioneer Drive

Greeley, CO. 80634

Yenney, Lois and Alex

35251 Highway 287

Jackson, Mt. 59736

'Old Joker' Cow and Kids Pony, Nearing 40 Years in Age By Paul H. Love

From the Madisonian Friday April 1, 1966

(Madisonian Editor's note: When we heard that Paul Love, Madison county's clerk of court, had a horse on his ranch nearing 40 years of age, we naturally wanted to get a story on the remarkable animal. When we approached Mr. Love about it, he was more than agreeable. In fact he said, "I'd like to write a story about Old Joker myself." We told him to go ahead and write--so here is his story.)

I would like to, in my own humble way, tell a true story of the life of this old pony, which I am sure sets a record--or at least equals any record that I have been able to run down.

Born on Bear Creek

"Old Joker" as he is known to many in the Madison Valley and Virginia City, was foaled in the spring of 1928 on Bear Creek above Cameron, at the old Bert Keller ranch, as it was known at that time. The place is just south across the creek from the present Bear Creek school house.

The Neville family lived there at the time and Ed Neville, who now lives in Ennis, raised Joker from a colt, worked with and broke him in his early years. Mr. Neville let M.J. Easter take and use him on the old Alex McKinnon ranch near McAllister. There Easter used him for awhile and he was then a stallion.

Sired Long-Living Colt

In fact, Easter had a mare that raised a colt sired by Joker and that animal lived to be around 33 or 34 years old, I am told.

Now as time goes along, after Easters lost their boy, they returned Joker to Ed Neville and about that time Harry (Coots) Thompson and Neville castrated Joker and he began life as a regular cow pony. He was used to herd and work cattle and horses.

Time goes along and Joker had several homes at different times in his early years. The family of the late Harold Stolz had him at one time at the home ranch north from Jeffers. Then it seemed that Joker began to have more permanent homes and he became part of the late Clarence Lichte string of horses on his family ranch above Cameron.

Good Family Horse

Joker developed into a good regular cow horse and an all around pony for the family. He had alot of spirit and you didn't need a spur on Joker. He knew what to do and how to do it, working with cattle and horses. He loved to chase horses all down through the years and he would reach out and nip a cow if she didn't move right along when he was driving them.

Now at the Lichte home he grew up in years, or I might say they grew up with him--that is the four Lichte girls, Dorothy, Vivian, Ruth, and Ellen Marie,

all had their early riding experinces with Joker. I am sure they can recall many fond memories and perhaps a few spills they had with him.

The Lichte girls used to have Joker in Virginia City in the spring of the year, while they attended school there for several years. No doubt many childred growing up in VC at that time will remember him.

Another Family of Girls

Then later, as the years still roll along and Joker was still a fairly young horse, the family of the late Frank Herrick above Cameron became his owner. There again, the three Herrick girls, Ramona, June and lone, shared in the growing up with old Joker very much like the Lichte girls did, and they no doubt had many pleasant and happy days with him, the way all children can with a trusty pony.

He served the Herrick family well until the spring of 1941, when I purchased him. I didn't even ask Frank how old he was at the time. He seemed sound and good and was about the type of horse I wanted, so it was satisfactory with me.

In fact I well remember what Mr. Herrick said when I loaded Old Joker--he said, "If you don't like him or think he is not worth the money just bring him back and get your money back."

Well, of course I did not take him back. You could always rely on what Frank Herrick told you.

Between Ennis and Virginia City

Still the years roll along and Joker is going strong. He made several trips back and forth from Ennis to Virginia City. I recall Mrs. Hattie Angle rode him on one occasion from Ennis to Virginia City.

We had him in Virginia City during the summers when we lived there, where our boys, Marvin and Larry, and many other children of the town grew up around, under and on Old Joker. I am certain that today many children both of Virginia City and Ennis, who have long since grown up and have children of their own, can well remember back through those years, the many experiences and pleasure had in the many ways that kids have with a real good trusty pony.

All for One or Many

He was always ready to go and would let as many ride as could get on--until he got tired and then he just might unload some of them in his cunning way. But I never heard of anyone being hurt by Joker. He was reliable and gentle in every way and really a smart horse. To this day he does not have a blemish or wire cut and on three different times in my time with him when he would get tangled up in barbwire, he would just stand there and wait until someone came to his rescue. He never got hurt.

The real small kids had a cute way of getting on him. They would wait until he put his head down to get a bite of grass, then they would straddle his neck and when he raised his head up they could slide down onto his back. It was alright with Joker.

(continued on page 4)

**Continued from page 3
At Retirement Age**

Joker has been in most of the Fourth of July parades in Ennis in the past years--up until the last couple when it became just a little too much for him. The years are still going by, of course, and I still have Old Joker. He is retired and I am getting a wee bit tired myself, I'll admit, and aging along with him. He is taking it easy on the ranch near Ennis at our place, commonly called the Whitney place. We hope Old Joker has another few years of life. He is certainly getting good care and still speaks for his rolled oats twice a day. He will always answer me when I call to him --it sort of gets you. Especially if you like horses.

In closing I will say that I do believe this is a record age for a horse, especially around these parts, and I would gladly stand corrected if it is not. Will say further, as a horse lover, that if there is a "Gold mine in the sky" as far as horses go, then I am sure Old Joker will go to his reward in horse heaven and will find that "clover down the lane" some sweet day. Thank you

Postscript: Joker passed away on Dec. 28, 1967 in his pasture at the Whitney Place. He is buried there and the pasture is still called "Old Joker's Pasture". (submitted by Larry Love)

Madison Valley History Association
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this newsletter is generously
donated by First Madison Valley Bank.

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Next issue will be January 2004.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Larry Love
Zoe Todd

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 2 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2004

From the Wagon Seat: Happy, Healthy and Exciting New Year to All. If you are a member of the MVHA, 2003 was an exciting year. 2004 promises to be even better. If you are not a member, become one and help preserve the Madison Valley history. In 2003, the MVHA had land donated to us, had large contributions from two estates, joined the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and Museum Association of Montana, elected Board Members at our annual meeting, had a prize winning float in the 4th of July Parade, had a Garage Sale, had a table at the MVWC Holiday Bazaar, and had a table at the Fly Fishing Festival. With permission of the City Council, we named the park on main street the "Grandma Ennis Park." We had our Old Time Social, put out the first four issues of our newsletter, gave two tours of Historic Main Street, Ennis and had monthly meetings with great programs.

What is ahead for 2004? There will be work on a master plan for our land with a possible building, keeping our mini-museum open during the summer, get sign installed at "Grandma Ennis Park," make a brochure for our museum and association, have fund raisers, get more exposure for our MVHA, and have more great programs at our meetings.

To all members and to anyone reading this newsletter that is not a member, I encourage you to become involved in the history of the Madison Valley. For the long term we need help from everyone. Also, everyone needs to keep in mind fund raising projects. We are a 501 C 3 non-profit organization. We encourage everyone to keep the MVHA in mind for a donation as a tax deduction. See you at all the meetings and history activities in 2004. Larry Love, Your President & Wagon Master

History Tidbit: Susannah ("Gammie") Switzer came with her sons, Andrew and Malphus (Chuck), her daughter, Ellen, and their children to the Madison Valley in 1875 to join her husband, Tavner Switzer. He had been prospecting from 1870-1875 in Colorado and Montana while she kept the home fires burning in Indiana. In 1875 he established a home for them in Montana and sent for his family.

Grammie was a tiny little woman but was formidable. She acted as midwife throughout the valley, riding sidesaddle to wherever she was needed. Her husband would wrap her legs in paper when she was called out in cold weather.

One summer day the Indians came through. Gammie was unfazed. But when they headed down toward the Maynard ranch, Gammie took action. Mrs. Maynard was a timid woman and Gammie knew it. Grabbing a whip, she got on her horse and raced after the Indians. They did not bother Mrs. Maynard and took off when they saw the tiny woman with the whip!! submitted by Jane Jeffers Rybus, great, great granddaughter of "Gammie".

Membership dues are now due for the 2004 year. Please check the membership column on page 2 to check if you have already paid your dues. Eight members have already paid 2004 dues and we thank you for your continued support!! If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board members. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming new members to our organization.

Member Application

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P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

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Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student \$5.00() Individual \$10.00() Family \$15.00() Business \$50.00() Patron \$100.00()
(Please select one)

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
 Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated. Please refer to previous issues for complete listings of **2003** memberships
Thank you for your membership.

New Memberships for 2003.

Wing, Jerry and Dave 682-5502
 P.O. Box 247
 McAllister, Mt. 59740
Young (Clark), Frances (907)225-3529
 3215 Timberline Ct.
 Ketchikan, Ak. 99901

New Memberships for 2004

Arnold, Rick and Jacquie 682-5042
 P.O. Box 607
Sonderer, Lucie 682-4787
 P.O. Box 30

Thank you for your continuing membership and support.

Dues paid for **2003**
Gordon, Vickey and Marty 682-7527
 86 Mt. Hwy 287N

Dues already paid for **2004!!**

Angle, Waller S. "Bud" 682-4855
 P.O. Box 371
Armstrong, Jean 682-4347
 P.O. Box 694
Kirby, Jack and Barbara 682-4881
 P.O. Box 692
Klatt, Les and Bobby 682-7119
 P.O. Box 224
Lee, Richard and Rosemary 843-5506
 P.O. Box 306
 Virginia City, Mt. 59755

Love, Roy (801)745-9489
 1241 N. 7100 E.
 Huntsville, Utah 84317
Smith, Phyllis 587-9723
 530 S. Willson Ave.
 Bozeman, Mt. 59715
Thibodeaux, Vern 682-5724
 14 Fish Hatchery Road #17

Exerpted from Montana Standard Three Rivers Edition Nov. 25, 2003

Ennis resident presents paper

Ennis area resident, Gary Forney recently presented a paper to the annual conference of the Gallatin County Historical Society. The topic of Forney's paper was "Signs of Distress: The Trials of Martin Peel." Martin Peel was convicted in June 1900 for the murder of William Ennis.

Forney has completed a biography of Thomas Francis Meagher, written several articles related to the early Montana Territory, and is currently writing a history of Montana's early mining camps and the Fairweather discovery party.

Some of the other topics presented at the conference included "Medicine of the West", "Montana Oiyee" and Anatomy of a Lynching". The conference papers will be compiled into the annual publication, "In Celebration of our Past", published by the Historical Society.

The Gallatin County Historical Society is a non-profit organization, which operates the Pioneer Museum of Bozeman. In addition to thousands of artifacts, photos, and documents, the society has a special collection of books related to the Lewis and Clark expedition and provides genealogical research services. The Pioneer Museum is the recipient of a certificate of merit from the American Association of State and Local History for excellence in programs.

Otis C. Whitney: Madison Valley Milkman by Gary R. Forney

On the surface, it must have seemed inevitable that Otis C. Whitney was destined to spend his life in Maine. Otis was born on April 27, 1815 in Whitneyville, Maine, a tiny settlement which has been established by his grandparents. Young Otis, however, heard voices calling him to the frontier of the American West and left Whitneyville by the age of sixteen. Whitney moved west via a northern route to Wisconsin, where he worked for several years in farming.

While in Wisconsin, Otis met Ellen Hill and the couple married in 1856. One source suggests that Ellen was previously married and had a daughter, Zelpha. The early years of the Whitney marriage was a time of bitter loss and struggle, as the couple lost their first four children to various illnesses. In the spring of 1863 the couple was living at St. Anthony's Falls, Minnesota, where Otis was working as a logger. The Whitney's decided to start a new life in new surroundings and joined those flocking to the golden cities of the Colorado territory. By the time Otis and Ellen arrived in Colorado, however, they learned many had already moved to exciting new discoveries in the Idaho Territory. Too late in the year to travel further west, the couple remained in Colorado for the winter of 1863-64, but were ready to move on by the time the trails were suitable for travel in the spring--bound for the newly established Montana Territory. The Whitney's arrived at the raucous boom towns of the Alder Gulch in late June of 1864, but quickly joined those who had already begun to establish farming operations in an area known as the Madison Valley.

Otis and Ellen established their home two miles east of the settlement of Ennis. Their farm was along Odell Creek, at a site previously referred to as the "Old Tex" ranch. With the few dairy cattle they had brought with them from Colorado, the Whitney's began to supply the Alder Gulch with commodities more uncommon than gold and silver--milk and butter. Otis is also credited as being the first to raise barley in the Madison Valley, and the first to bring a purebred Durham bull to the valley in an effort to improve the quality of his livestock in what was obviously a benefit to his farming interests, Otis began a ferry operation across the Madison River in the late 1860's. The ferry was in service until he took the next logical step and built the first bridge across the Madison in 1871. Whitney managed the bridge as a successful toll service until it was destroyed by flooding in the late spring of 1873.

In addition to enjoying financial prosperity in the Madison Valley, the Whitney's also celebrated the birth--and survival--of three

children, Thomas H, Emma O. and Ellen Maria. Otis and Ellen also served as foster parents for Georgia and Osmond Wingate during the mid-to late 1880's. Otis was an active member of the school district board for several years, and was elected to the Territorial House of Representatives in 1871. Otis joined James Garoutte, N. D. Johnson, and Samuel M. Tripp as Representatives from Madison County to the Seventh Session of the Territorial Legislature.

Ellen Whitney died in July of 1892 and Otis passed away less than two months later, on September 19. Both husband and wife were buried in the Evans cemetery, just a short distance from their Odell Creek farm.

Sources: Leeson, Michael, History of Montana 1739-1885, Pioneer Trails and Trials, Resister of the Society of Montana Pioneer, 1899 and Spray, James "Early Days in the Madison Valley".

"Rambling Thoughts about living through This Century--the 20th!" by Roberta Cheney

It has been an exciting century and my lifetime has spanned most of it. I was born on April 18, 1912, the same week the Titanic sank and the doctor who came to our ranch to deliver me brought news of the disaster. It had come in over the wireless.

My first trip to Ennis and church in Jeffers was in a one horse buggy-a fancy one with fringe on top. Years later we got our first car. It was a Ford touring car, open to the wind and weather, unless you put the side curtains on. There were no spare tires. If you had a flat, the driver got out, jacked up the side of the car, took the flat tire off and patched the leaking inner tube, pumped it up and put the tire back together. Our first sedan--that meant a car with glass windows--was an Overland with constant problems. In order to get up the Irish College hill--it was steep then--often passengers had to get out and it took several rides.

The train came in to Norris and that was the lifeline to the outside world. This was especially true in the fall when our white faced Herefords were trailed over the hill to be loaded on freight cars. There was one passenger car on the train.

Several of the cattle owners went along to the cattle market in Omaha, where the steers were usually sold. The check for those steers was the rancher's income for the year, except for butter, eggs and cream that sold in 5 gallon cans.

Vegetable came out of the garden, which was my little mother's responsibility. They had to be canned for winter. For fruit we had rhubarb and apples from our trees. Milk came from the milk cows and butter from their cream.

"Rambling Thoughts" will be continued next issue.

Memorials were received for the following during 2003

Earl Love
Annie Neville
Toby Orr
Minnie Paugh
David Skank
Vi Thexton
Diana McQuire Wilson

For Your Reading Pleasure

A very interesting book that includes mining camps near the Madison Valley is Montana Pay Dirt A Guide to the Mining Camps of the Treasure State by Muriel Sibell Wolle. You will find information on Sterling, Pony, Nevada City and Virginia City and much more.

History Tidbit: Ennis Pharmacy is believed to be the oldest business giving continuous service to the Madison Valley. It was established around 1905 by a man named Wold. A blacksmith by the name of Mr. Angle and Mr. Casper, a pharmacist, were the next owners who renamed the business Casper and Angle. More on this history in the next issue.

Madison Valley History Association
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love
Vice-President: Zoe Todd
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Jane Rybus
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Director: Stephanie Vujovich

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Gary Forney
Jane Jeffers Rybus
Roberta Cheney

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by First Madison Valley Bank.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 2 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2004

From the Wagon Seat: Spring is here!! The birds have all returned and are paired up and on nests. Days are getting warmer and gophers are getting run over on the highway. And the landscape is starting to look green. The MVHA is ready to start its spring and summer work too. Our big challenge is to keep the mini-museum open from June to September on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 pm. Please plan to sign up for a couple of shifts. We will need everyone's help including friends and neighbors to do do this.

We have had some great programs this past year, thanks to Smitty Overstreet. If you have any suggestions for programs, let us know. We will start a new segment of our meetings thanks to Zoe Todd and Smitty Overstreet. It is a news flash from the past over "radio station" MVHA. The sign for Grandma Ennis Park is ordered and completed. Now we need a big rock on which to mount it. We are still in the process of getting the land transferred and have lots of suggestions about some old buildings in the area that might make part of our museum. This year is going to be an exciting one.

The annual meeting is in May and we will elect two directors to fill spots where terms are up. Please pay your dues and bring a friend to the next meeting. I would like to encourage you to talk to the nominating committee of your interest in becoming a member of the board of directors. We need your ideas.

It is too late to get your charitable contribution for 2003 tax year but you can be just in time with a charitable contribution for next year. Tell everyone you see that MVHA is a 501c3 organization and they can use a charitable contribution to deduct from taxes if they are looking for a place to do that. Any contributions will be put to good use for preserving the history of the Madison Valley.

Our meeting time from May until daylight savings time goes off in the fall will be at 7:00 pm at the VFW hall on the second Thursday of each month. See you at the meetings or on the street. Your Wagon Master and president, Larry Love

Rambling Thoughts about living through This Century--the 20th! by Roberta Cheney. *(continued from January 2004 Vol 2 Issue 1)* War is tragic any time and in this century there have been three major ones and constant conflicts in some part of the world. That isn't new, but the weapons of war have become so much more devastating than ever before. Thousands of our young men were sent to war and many of them were killed. Women often took their place in the work place and on ranches and farms it was especially difficult.

I remember when we factiously talk about the "man in the moon"..never dreaming that within our lifetime there actually would be a man on the moon. We watched birds and wondered how they could possibly defy gravity and stay up in the air. Scientists copied the design of a bird's body and put a motor in it, so it to could defy gravity and fly. The whole world in this century has become our play ground and our business partners. I was never out of the Madison Valley until I was 10 years old. In recent years I have flown to Europe, South America and across the continent to my granddaughter's wedding in New York state. Radio and television have brought world news immediately into our homes and e mail is putting letter writing out of style .I am back now living in the exact place where I was born 90 years ago. I am grateful that there is still no houses between me and my favorite mountain and that my extended family come often to visit.

What an exciting century it has been. I am happy to have been a part of it.

Membership dues are now due for the 2004 year. Please check the front of your newsletter near the address to see if there is a "Dues now due" sticker. If there is not a sticker, you have paid your dues! If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board members. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming new members to our organization.

Member Application

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student \$5.00() Individual \$10.00() Family \$15.00() Business \$50.00() Patron \$100.00()

Madison Valley History Association, Inc

Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated. Please refer to previous issues for complete listings of **2004** memberships.

Thank you for your membership.

New Memberships for 2004.

Baumgartner, Jane 682-4918

P.O. Box 310

MCCook, Bill and Sue (949)240-1665

31593 Aquacati Rd (Ennis)682-4480

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Pate, Barbara 682-3344

P.O. Box 1172

Orr, Carol 682-7308

21 Jack Creek Rd

Thibodeaux, Richard 876-2451

412 3rd.

Shoshoni, Wyo. 82649

Thank you for your continuing membership and

support. Dues paid for **2004** since January **2004** newsletter publication.

Alger, George and Mary Ann 682-7361

73 Jeffers Rd

Bayley, Bob and Shirley 682-4102

P.O. Box 399

Bennetts, Chuck 683-4528

815 S. Atlantic

Dillon, Mt. 59725

Bowen, Toni and Don 682-4290

P.O. Box 1490

Carlson, Jimmy 682-3844

P.O. Box 61

McAllister, Mt. 59740

Claassen, Beverly 682-5598

P.O. Box 1375

Clark, Ed and Merrilyn 682-4679

P.O. Box 572

Clausen, Mary 682-7096

P.O. Box 1492 (summer)

P.O. Box 4503 (winter)

Tubac, AZ. 85646

Coffman, Ted 682-4567

P.O. Box 961

Cole, Gail F. 682-7097

P.O. Box 1464

Crennen, Martin and Margaret Ann 443-2911

919 Mauldin

Helena, Mt. 59601

Davis, Monte and Dixie 682-4033

P.O. Box 1378

Durham, Mona 682-4638

P.O. Box 214

Cameron, Mt. 59720

Forney, Gary 682-4096

P.O. Box 270

Gordon, Marty and Victoria 682-7527

86 Mt. Hwy. 287 N

Gustafson, Shirley 682-4874

245 Jeffers Road

Hale, Pat and Dave 682-4191

573 Mt. Hwy., 287, #6

Hanni, Gene and Ethelyn 682-4348

P.O. Box 1575

Labrum, Terry

2165 Aerie Heights Cove

Sandy, UT. 84092

Lounsbury, John and Lois 682-3239

P.O. Box 334

McAllister, Mt. 59740

Love, Shirley and Larry 682-5780

P.O. Box 1018

Love, Carole 683-2181

1000 Lover's Leap Rd.

Dillon, Mt. 59725

Love, Marvin and Terry 266-4294

P.O. Box 634

Townsend, Mt. 59644

Madison Drilling and Pump Supply 682-4997

P.O. Box 1378

Mayne, Mike and Patty 682-7154

2060 Hwy. 287 N. (summer)

Cameron, Mt. 59720

2207 Raleigh Ave. (winter) (949)574-0446

Costa Mesa, CA. 92627-2908

Neville, Don "Kid" 682-4321

P.O. Box 254

Overstreet, P.S. "Smitty" 682-4405

450 Varney Road

Plath, Phyllis 682-5480

P.O. Box 27

Rochez, Darlene and Fred 682-5794

31 Whitewind Lane (winter)

Las Vegas, NV. 89110

Roedell, Judy 682-4960

P.O. Box 232

Rybus, Jane J. 682-4377

P.O. Box 295

Shores, Karen 682-4935

Cheney, Roberta

P.O. Box 228

Cameron, Mt. 59720

Thexton, Don 682-4833

335 Varney Road

Todd, Dick and Polly 842-5175

41 Duncan District Road

Sheridan, Mt. 59749

Todd, Zoe 682-4360

P.O. Box 531

Valgenti, Frank 586-0256

P.O. Box 9

Bozeman, Mt. 59715

Vetter, Frank 425-746-1936

4568 151 Ave. S.E.

Bellevue, WA 98006

Walsh, Eugene and Lois 682-4898

3055 Hwy. 287 N.

Cameron, Mt. 5972

<u>Weigand, Michael and Patti</u>	498-9987
P.O. Box 1126	
W. Yellowstone, Mt. 59758	
<u>Wortman, Lloyd</u>	682-4823
4325 US Hwy. 287 North	
<u>Wright, Alice</u>	682-7890
P.O. Box 576 (summer)	
1917 W. Steinback Dr.(winter)	
Anthem, AZ 85086	

On May 22, 2004 the Madison Valley Public Library will be celebrating their 30th. anniversary at their present location. The following piece of Madison Valley History was prepared to commemorate this occasion. Please plan to attend this event and support the library effort. Thanks, Gary **Ex Libris** by Gary R. Forney

Perhaps it should not come as a surprise that one of the Madison Valley's most valuable resources is attributable to one of the valley's most venerable associations. The Madison Valley Library of Ennis not only exists, but thrives today as a result of the foresight and nurturing of the Madison Valley Women's Club.

The MVWC made its first attempt to establish a library in Ennis in the early 1920's. Due to economic hardships, however, this inaugural effort was short-lived. The Club renewed its efforts again in the autumn of 1940. The second library operated by volunteers of the Woman's Club in a second floor room of the Chowning Building (site of the present-day Moonlight Basin offices) Once again, however, the library struggled to remain viable during that time of world war and was forced to close. Undeterred, in 1973, the Woman's Club made its third attempt to establish a library..the third time was a charm.

During 1973, in response to a petition drive spear-headed by the Woman's Club, the town of Ennis established a city mill levy for support of the library. With assurance of the city's financial support, the position of a salaried librarian to be created and a volunteer Library Board was established to oversee general operations. Beth Pendleton was hired as the first professional librarian, and two rooms in the Bauer Apartments (site of present-day Town Pump) were acquired to serve as the library facility. Although the library was now "owned" by the city, the Woman's Club continued to provide integral financial and volunteer support.

The success of the library soon necessitated a move to larger quarters and the library was able to move to its present site, obtaining the use of house on Main Street known by that time as Dr. Clancy's home. The Clancy home, considered one of--if not the- oldest structures in Ennis, was originally built in Virginia City and moved by William Ennis in 1868. The house was located-coincidentally-at the site of the present Town Pump, and used as the Ennis family home until 1883. The house was then moved to the approximate site of the present day Valley Bank where it functioned as a hotel before it was moved, yet again, to its present location in 1901. In 1923, the house was purchased by Dr. Daniel Clancy. The house served as both home and office for Dr. Clancy and his wife, Edna("Tot"), until Dr. Clancy's death in 1945. Tot continued

to live in the house until her death in 1974. In April of 1976, Dr. John Clancy (Daniel and Tot's only heir) agreed to a five-year lease of the Clancy home to the town of Ennis for use as a library.

The Library Board established a fund rising committee in 1979 led by Neil Kent. Two years later, with a gift of the remaining treasury of the old Farmer's Union Trading Company, a general community fund drive and the Woman's Club donations--the Library Board had raised the funds to purchase the Clancy home and lot. The library collection had grown to include more than 6,700 titles, 15 periodicals subscriptions, and a circulation count of approximately 9,000. A summer reading program had been established and Louine Abrahamson was providing "story time" on Wednesday afternoons for pre-school children. It had become obvious that the little Clancy house was no longer adequate to provide for the growing demand of the valley's residents.

During the spring of 1985, plans were finalized to build an addition to the Clancy house and once again, the Women's Club and the year-round residents stepped up to the task. Boosted by a \$10,000 grant from the Burlington Northern Foundation, the building fund committee raised more than \$80,000 to pay for the new addition without tax support. The evidence of the generosity and the hard work and contributions of many can be seen in the present structure.

The past few years have seen continued growth and success for the library. Ms. Pendleton served as librarian until illness forced her to leave in 1989. Edith McCormick served from 1990-94 when Kathy Knack assumed the responsibilities as Library Director. Michelle Goggins became Assistant Director in 2000. The library's collection now includes more than 15,000 titles, 850 videotapes, and 500 books on tape. There are 1,870 currently registered patrons and the circulation for 2003 was 19,674 items.

The wonderful success of the library operation presents a "good news-bad news" scenario. Once more the Library Board is faced with the challenge of providing facility enhancements to accommodate the growth in the library's collection and the number of active patrons. During the spring of 2004, the Board will be meeting with architects to review plans for a possible addition to our current facility. Thanks to the generous bequest of Violet Thexton the project has a nice start toward realizing the dream of a better library. It will require the help of many people to make this dream a reality--people with resolve to build for the future--people with the foresight similar to those women eighty years ago. (Sources: Winifred Jeffers, Kathy Knack, Pioneer Trails and Trials, Jane Rybus and Town of Ennis records)

History Tidbit: While Mrs. L.M. Jeffers searched frantically for her 4 year old daughter, Shirley, Monday, this young lady accompanied by her puppy, had calmly arrived at the M. A. Switzer home in Jeffers. She was smiling sweetly and was none the worse for her trudge of 1 and 1/2 miles

History Tidbit: Born- Friday, January 25, 1929, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Chamberlin, of Ennis. Mother and babe are doing fine under the care of Dr. D. F. Clancy and Mrs. Alex McAllister.

For your Reading Pleasure

You either know, have heard of, or attended the monthly meeting when Doc Losee gave his presentation. Read his book **Doc** by R.E. Losee for more enlightenment by this wonderful Madison Valley resident. It is available at our local library or can be purchased at many bookstores

The Montana Library Network for Good Montana Reads lists **All But the Waltz** by Mary Clearman Blew in two categories: Essential reading for New Comers to Montana and Essential Reading in the Culture of Montana. It is a memoir of five generations of a Montana family ranching near Denton, Mt. but it could easily be in the Madison Valley. This book is available at our local library.

History Tidbit: Violet Thexton’s Dad (Robert Burns) said: When the wild roses bloom, high water is over.

4th of July Parade Theme is “Exploding the West” Be thinking about a float for the MVHA entry in the parade. It will not be too long before the parade date will be here!!

Madison Valley History Association
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Mt. 59729

Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by Madison Drilling and Pump Supply.

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Contributing editors: Gary Forney
Roberta Cheney

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The Wagon Tongue

Volume 2 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2004

From the Wagon Seat: I don't know where the time goes but the 4th of July was already here and gone. Hope everyone had a great Fourth. What a parade!! A special thanks to Zoe Todd, Kid Neville, Jim Carlson, Neil Kent, Shirley Love, John Lounsbury, Rolland Hebel, Mustang Mall and yours truly for a great float. We did good. First place in local entries!!

The museum has been open every weekend except for the day of the 4th. Please sign up for a shift to help keep our museum open on weekends. Tell your friends, relatives, and anybody within shouting distance about our museum. Bring your summer guests and visiting family in. Call Zoe or Larry for special openings if they are not around on weekends. We need to promote our museum and word of mouth is one of the best ways.

At the annual meeting held in May, Zoe Todd and Jim Carlson were elected to 3 year terms and Mary Ann Alger to a 2 year term. The board reorganized and Larry Love will be President with Zoe Todd serving during the winter months. Mary Ann was elected secretary, Neil Kent, treasurer, and Jim Carlson elected vice president. Smitty Overstreet will continue as Program director and Shirley Love will continue as Wagon Tongue editor and Historian. A special thank you to Jane Rybus for serving on the board. The MVHA is in good hands but we need a lot of input, volunteer hours, and support in many ways from our membership.

Hopefully by the time you read your October Wagon Tongue, we will have completed a new brochure for the museum, completed the land deal, put a rock and sign in Gramma Ennis Park, had our Old Time Social, had a booth at the Fly Fishing Festival and continued to have good programs.

Continue to pass the word about our museum and our history association. Not everyone reads the newspaper!!

Have a good summer, come to the monthly meetings, volunteer at the museum, the Old Time Social and the Fly Fishing Festival. Remember the MVHA in your charitable contributions and memorials. Keep the flame alive for a museum in the Madison Valley. Larry Love, President and your Wagon Master.

History Tidbit: From *The Times* Virginia City, Mt. Newspaper, Nov. 25, 1904. (Friday) Albert Werner of Cameron was in town Wednesday as a witness in the trial of M.L. Morgan for assault in the first degree, which was heard before Justice Johnson.

Membership dues are now due for the 2004 year. Please check the front of your newsletter near the address to see if there is a "Dues now due" sticker. If there is **not** a sticker, you have paid your dues! If there **is** a sticker, please plan to join and support us for another year. If you have a friend or relative who would enjoy a copy of this newsletter, please give name and address to one of the board members. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming new members to our organization.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated. Please refer to previous issues for complete listings of **2004** memberships. **Thank you for your membership.**

New members for 2004

Combs, Peter and Virginia 682-4867
P.O. Box 577
Roath, Pat 682-3144
P.O. Box 184
Virginia City, Mt. 59755
Yoder, Glen and Judy (480) 837-3711
P.O. Box 17269
Fountain Hills, Az. 85269

Thank you for your continuing membership and support. Dues paid for **2004** since April **2004** newsletter publication.

Banks, Robert and Carolyn 683-4867
515 S. Pacific St.
Dillon, Mt. 59725
Barnett, Dode and Vurnie Kay 682-4313
P.O. Box 186
Beals, Jack and Sally (503)639-9478
18700 SW Tualata Ave.
Lake Oswego, OR. 97035
Chamberlin, Norman 682-3883
P.O. Box 335
First Madison Valley Bank 682-4215
P.O. Box 307
Gleason, Ruby and Larry 682-4324
P.O. Box 67
Kent, Neil 682-4308
P.O. Box 8
Kiefer, Larry
104 North Lewis Ave.
Hardin, Mt. 59034
Larson, Craig (763)789-5975, 2989
2122 45th Ave. NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421
Losee, Dr. Ronald and Olive 682-4267
381 Varney Rd
Pasley, Lucy and Hal 682-4268
P.O.Box 644
Rummel, Michael (619)593-1988
10484 Gretler Place
La Mesa, CA 91941
Smith, Janet 682-4636
P.O. Box 148
Cameron, MT 59720
Smith, Sally 683-2198
P.O. Box 547
Dillon, MT 59725

Stewart, Marvin L. 683-5313
P. O. Box 1320
Dillon, Mt. 59729
Stokes, Ken and Kristin (775) 246-3483
4400 Kings Canyon Rd
Carson City, NV. 89703
Watson, Emily Angle 252-6766
3803 Coulson Road
Billings, Mt. 59101
Wilkins, Toby 682-4584
P.O. Box 531
Wing, Dave and Jerry 682-5502
P.O. Box 247
McAllister, Mt. 59740

Museum open this summer

The Madison Valley History Assoc. Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays 1:00-4:00pm from June through September. There is a very urgent need for volunteers to man the museum during these hours. Please volunteer by calling 682-5780. Most of all get the word out that the museum is open so there will be visitors.

From the Eulogy for Ruth Beals written by her son, Jack.

Ruth lived to almost 100 years. Over 95 of those years in Montana and over 60 in Ennis. We tend to forget or ignore what went before.

I was introduced to a person recently in Ennis. I did not recognize the name and asked if he was new to the valley. He replied, "No, I've been here 20 years". To some of us "new " is a relative term.

For a few minutes I'm going to attempt to amaze and maybe mystify you -especially the "new" people.

Mom was born approximately one month before the Wright Bros. first powered flight.

She lived from man getting off the ground to men on the moon; from a time it was difficult to stay in touch to a time it's difficult not to be contacted.

The Ennis phone system--at least in the 40's and 50's had a "ring down" system with an actual human operator that you talked to. An actual Office that you could walk into and watch the operator work and talk to her if she wasn't too busy.

In town we had single lines but out of town there were party lines and each phone has its own special ring.

When I was in the service, during the mid 50's, I remember trying to call Mom and Dad. The Spokane operator would call Ennis "Central" and request "23", Mom and Dad's number. Sometimes the call went like this: Central would ring "23" but "there wouldn't be an answer.

"Central" would come back to me and say "Is this Jackie." "I would say yes." "Central" would say "I heard them talking to Pasleys. Hold on and I'll try there." "Central" would call Dar and Luella and say "Are Jack and Ruth there. Jackie's trying to get ahold of them." Dar or Luella might reply "No, but we did talk to them and they thought they might go up to Kellog's(Hugh and Alda)"

"Central" to Jackie-"Hold on and I'll try the Kellog's". Sure enough contact would be made. It was a rare occasion when I didn't make contact. If the town siren went off, and it wasn't 9:00pm, you called "Central" to find out where the fire was.

There was a special ring on the party lines to alert all people on that line to "pick-up." What I am getting at is the Madison Valley had (1) News and information (2) Early 911 (3) Conference calling--although you may not have realized it on party lines (4) Call forwarding and we didn't even realize it!!

Mom's Dad was an M.D. I am sure a very good one. But from minimal care to the advances of today, I, for one, am thankful for the advances. Mom's life saw the horse and buggy and dirt roads to cars and super highways.

I had a chance to talk to Hal Pasley. He's younger than Mom, and when even younger, could remember when there were only 2 cars in the valley.

Ford Motor Company recently celebrated it's 100th year and with all due respect to Hal, who provided the valley with lots of Chevy's, those 2 cars were probably Fords,

Mom remembered going to the Madison Campground, by horse and wagon, with her family. That same campground is now covered by a rock dam.

In 1907 they hired a teenager to go with them and help care for the children and the camp. The teenager was Jack Northway. You may think that Jack has held up well for his age, and he has, but Mom was referring to his father.

From one who has experienced both, as some of you have, in dead of winter to high of summer, indoor plumbing was greatly appreciated.

Mom was a teenager at the end of World War I , she lived through the Depression, and was in her middle 40's when World War II ended.

In 1945 Mom and Dad returned from Seattle and bought property from Ray and Edna Schabarker and for nearly 50 years lived next door to the last child her father had delivered, Ray.

From personal experience: My son Scott, at about 6 or 7, asked me what I watched on TV when I was small. I told him I didn't have a TV. His reply "Oh no, everybody has a TV. (Published in Memory of Ruth Beals.)

Jeffers Reunion and history of Jeffers.

One hundred years ago on July 3, 1904, the residents of Jeffers, Montana had a tug of war. On July 3, 2004, Don Black, of Jeffers and Great Falls had the community of Jeffers and families of former Jeffers residents reenact the Tug of War. It was great fun and a very historical event!!

Jeffers is just across the Madison River from Ennis. The ranches that surround it are some of the oldest in the valley. It was named for Myron D. Jeffers, a New York native who worked his way west as a miner and civil engineer. In 1864 he came to the Madison Valley and freighted for the gold camps and in 1869 he trailed a herd of cattle up from Texas and sold them at Bannack. In 1871 he trailed another herd from Texas and noted in his diary that 1,894 cattle and 37 head of horses were "road branded." With this herd he started the Yellow Barn Cattle Ranch.

Residents of the east side of the river got their mail in Ennis until their petition for a post office called Jeffers was granted in 1903. Myron Jeffer's wife, Florence (Switzer) was the first postmaster at Jeffers when the office opened. The Switzer store served as post office and general merchandise headquarters for many years. Other postmasters were John L. Hartman, Andrew W. Switzer, M.A. Switzer, Bernice Pankey, Harvey P. McKee, Edna Mooney and Helen Wonder. Helen Wonder served as postmaster and community store keeper from 1941 until she retired in August 1975 and the post office was closed.

There had been a grocery store there since 1900 when William Lowe sold his ranch in the Bear Creek area and built a store building on a foundation of a hall that had been burned down in 1897.

The Episcopal Church was built in 1902. A black smith shop was operated by Liggett and Gilmer. The Woodman Lodge room was in the upstairs of a large hall used for church, plays, dancing, community parties, sometimes for funerals and other gatherings. The first real school house in the valley was built in the Jeffers area in 1867. The Madison Valley Band was organized in Jeffers and the first baseball field was in the William Mitchell pasture.

Jeffers history from Pioneer Trails and Trials-article by Winifred Jeffers and Names on the Face of Montana by Roberta Cheney

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 2 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2004

From the Wagon Seat: Wow!! What beautiful fall days we are having. I really don't know where the summer has gone, but it went by way too fast. The MVHA kept the museum open on Sat. and Sun, 1-4pm from June until September. We had a total of 45 people sign our guest book. I would like to thank all those members who volunteered at the museum, some two and three times. But there were some days when we could not find anyone to take a shift. As we look into the future, we need to have more members take a turn at the museum and we need to let everyone know that we have a museum. As we look into spring of 2005, I hope we can have a design of a building. The land has been assured to us; we are just waiting on the paper work.

The fly fishing festival and our part in it was successful. We sold a few mugs, handed out our new brochures and gave a historical tour of main street Ennis. Our "Old Time Social" was a success too. I would like to thank Zoe Todd for her efforts in organizing it. Zoe Todd, Larry Love, Shirley Love, Don Neville, Neil Kent, Mary Ann Alger, and Mona Durham told the untold stories of the Madison Valley. We had help developing the skit from Allison Adams. Rachel Jones did a living history demonstration of the spinning wheel. It was a great time and learning experience for the 40 or so people who attended. Don't miss out next year. Plan to attend!!

This Oct. 14 meeting is our last meeting of this year at 7:00pm. Starting in November we will start our meetings at 4:00. Plan to attend meetings and to get involved. If we are to have a museum in Ennis, it will take help from everyone. Larry Love

History Tidbit: (Update on **M.L. Morgan** from The Times, Virginia City, Montana Newspaper, November 25, 1904 Friday)

Before Justice N. D. Johnson, Tuesday afternoon at two p.m., **Mayseth L. Morgan** of Morgan Gulch in the Madison Valley, appeared to answer to the charge of assault in the first degree upon the person of **Albert P. Henrie**, a sheepherder in the employ of John E. Johnson of Cherry Creek. There were no witnesses to the alleged assault, and Justice Johnson discharged the accused, who had been in durance vile since last Thursday.

The complaining witness, Albert P. Henrie, stated that Morgan had pointed a gun at him during an altercation. The defendant who afforded a great deal of amusement to the spectators during his recital, said the gun was not loaded, and besides, he had given Henrie the first chance to shoot, and that when he himself raised the unloaded gun to his shoulder Henrie staggered sideways as if he had been shot. During his impassioned and yet, unintentionally humorous recital the prisoner broke off abruptly and exclaimed, "Judge, give me a chew of tobacco." Before proceeding, the Judge handed him a plug with the remark, "It would not have taken an instant longer to say please." After Morgan had helped himself to a generous "Chaw," which seemed to facilitate his remarks, he continued his story. When all the testimony was before the court, S.V. Stewart, the defendant's attorney, moved for the discharge of the prisoner upon the grounds that the evidence adduced was insufficient to warrant binding him over to district court. County Attorney Duncan made a short statement, and then the Judge discharged the prisoner. Morgan jumped out of the chair and pirouetted toward his honor to shake hands, but the Judge smilingly remarked he would not shake hands with a man who would draw a gun upon another, even if he could not be convicted of it, which did not effect in the slightest degree the exuberant joy of the man set at liberty. Submitted by Sue Ren

Membership dues are now due for the 2004 year. Please check the front of your newsletter near the address to see if there is a "Dues now due" sticker. If there is **not** a sticker, you have paid your dues! If there **is** a sticker and if you still consider yourself a member of the MVHA, please plan to submit your membership and support us for another year. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter, please give a MVHA board member the name and address and a copy will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

Member Application
Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student \$5.00(____) Individual \$10.00(____) Family \$15.00(____) Business \$50.00(____) Patron \$100.00(____)

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated. Please refer to previous issues for complete listings of 2004 memberships. **Thank you for your membership.**

New members for 2004 (since July issue)

Black, Don (406)453-4719

909 Ave. E. N.W
Great Falls, Montana 59404

Curnow, Ed & Maureen (Cheney) 682-4940

556 BearCreek Loop Road
Cameron, Mt. 59720

Hayes, Joyce and Bill 682-3900

P.O. Box 1427

Moss, Linda (Armstrong) (952)873-2953

512 Maple St. So.
Belle Plaine, Mn 56011

Thank you for your continuing membership and support. Dues paid for **2004** since **July 2004**

newsletter publication

Hudson Family

Betty Hudson, Wonder Ranch
General Delivery

Cameron, Mt. 59720

O'Neel, Jack and Ginny 682-3788

P.O. Box 1526

Townshend, Deb and Harry 682-7571

P.O. Box 221

Cameron, Mt. 59720

Young, Frances (Clark) (907)225-3529

3217 Timberline Ct.

Ketchikan, Ak 99901

Madison Valley History Museum

The Madison Valley History Museum was open this past June through September from 1:00-4:00pm. We did have a shortage of visitors and volunteers but we will do better next summer.

Special thanks to Zoe Todd and Larry Love for alternating the opening and closing each week- end and Shirley Love for calling. This was a great time commitment for them. Thanks also to the following 24 volunteers who manned the museum.

They committed alot of hours to the MVHA efforts. Bev Claassen(15 hrs), Shirley Gustafson(3), Jerry Wing(3), Smitty Overstreet(21) Jim Carlson(6), Ruby Gleason(6) Mary Ann Alger(9), Jane Rubus(9), Mona Durham(9), Neil Kent(6), Ethelyn Hanni(6), Bobby Klatt(3), Lois Walsh(3), Rick Arnold(9), Barb Pate(3), Jane Baumgartner(3) Kid Neville(3) Larry Love(6), Alice Wright(3) Gary Forney(3), Shirley Love(6), Fred Rochez(3), Bud Angle(3) Pat Hale(3).

History Tidbit *The Madisonian* April 9, 1943

Naval tests were taken Friday by five high school boys-Jerry Burgstrom, Ray Peel, Frank Vetter, Emerson and Elmer Bock. Returns on the tests were expected in June. The boys found out that math and science are good subjects to know in taking this type of test.

Montana's First Election by Gary Forney

With election day 2004 just ahead of us, this seems an appropriate time to look back on the first election held in Montana and some of the excitement it generated.

The Territory of Montana was created by Congress in May, 1864, and Sidney Edgerton was appointed to serve as Governor. Among Edgerton's first actions was to authorize a census of the new territory for the purpose of determining legislative apportionment. Edgerton, however, essentially disregarded the census and made his own apportionment when the tally revealed that Madison County was entitled to virtually all the legislative seats. Edgerton's motives were based less upon charity than political realities. Nevertheless, the date for the election was set for October 24, and the mudslinging began in earnest.

As the political campaign began to take shape, it became clear there were minority factions within each of the dominant parties. Within the Republican(or Union)Party were the far-right Radical Republicans including Governor Edgerton and his nephew, Wilbur F. Sanders. Similarly within the Democratic Party was a splinter faction known as the Copperheads. The Copperhead Democrats were strongly pro-Southern in their sympathies and probably represented a number of followers equal to the Radical Republicans. Regrettably, and unnecessarily, Edgerton set a turbulent course for territorial politics by painting all Democrats with the same brush.

Edgerton accused anyone who supported the Democratic candidates as being traitors to the cause of the Union. Wilbur Sanders, a candidate for the post of Territorial Delegate, warned that "if the so-called Democrats get into office, not even a breath of air would go untaxed...and [one] would not be able to go [from Virginia City] to Nevada [City] without encountering a toll-gate." The recently established, and unabashedly Republican *Montana Post* advised that men should vote the Union ticket "or stay at home."

By at least one objective measurement (the federal census of 1870), the rhetoric of Edgerton and Sanders was greatly exaggerated. Although some population shift may have occurred between 1864 and 1870, the federal census of 1870 documents 18,306 white males residing in Montana, of which only 1,584 were "natives of the Confederate states." Historian Clark Spene maintains that the Republicans could have formed a powerful alliance with Union Democrats had Edgerton been willing to compromise.

In what had to have been a bitter disappointment to Edgerton, the election returns resulted in only a one-seat majority to the Republicans in the Council, a one-seat majority to the Democrats in

(Continued on page 3)

Elections (Continued from page 2)

the House, and the election of Democrat Sam McLean as Territorial Delegate. All of Madison County's Democratic candidates were elected.

Governor Edgerton did his best to grasp victory for his nephew by withholding the certification of McLean's election until returns from precincts he claimed were affiliated with Madison County were filed. After some delay, approximately 2,000 ballots--unanimously supporting Republican candidates--were announced to have arrived from Fort Union, thus overturning the election of McLean and two Madison County legislators. Much to their credit, Nathaniel Davis and James Tufts--the Republicans who would have been seated--met with Edgerton and protested what they firmly suspected as an attempt at election fraud. Edgerton relented, and the election results were certified as prior to the questionable Ft. Union Ballots. It was later determined that at no time during 1864, was there ever more than 300 persons living at Ft. Union and that the settlement was actually located well outside the territory's boundary. It wouldn't be the last time that there would be "irregularities" in a Montana election.

Author's Note: Nathaniel Davis was the father of Fannie Davis, who married William John Ennis.

From the Madisonian, July 21, 1894: An axolotl picnic party took an outing Wednesday to the lakes in upper Alder Gulch. The ladies consisted of Mrs. Fine, Blinn, Ogden, Misses Blanche Fine, Nellie Conway, Nellie Cole, Wyme Craig, Ella Swift, Rita Elling, and the gent were J.H. Pankey, Chas. Perry, W.A Clark, C. W. Mead, J.A. Knight, Ben F. Fine, C.D. French and Joseph Smith. Two axolotls were captured and properly caged (in glass jars) by the ladies.

Submitted by Phyllis Smith.

Axolotls by Phyllis Smith

In a few small mountain lakes southwest of Ennis at some eight thousand feet lives an unusual salamander, *Ambystoma Mexicanum*, or axolotl. Two of the lakes are called Axolotl Lakes after the salamander. Another lake near by is the Blue Lake. The axolotl is usually found in high reaches of southern Mexico, Central America, and a few places in the United States. The name axolotl comes from the Nahuatl tongue, an Aztec word meaning "little doll" or "little dog." The ten-inch amphibian retains in maturity its larval features of gills; its tail is long but

ts legs and feet are small. One fin reaches from the back of the head to the tip of the tail; another rums from its hind legs to the tail. If an axolotl loses a leg or a tail, it can grow another. Colors of axolotls range from white to speckled black.

Historical writer, Phyllis Smith, is completing a history of Madison County but she has never encountered an axolotl, sad to say.

History of Cameron, Mt. The History of Montana 1885 says Bear Creek Settlement, in the upper Madison Valley, contains a number of young men just beginning in life, but who have the nerve and enthusiasm of pioneers.....Addison Bovey Cameron and his brother, James Blunt Cameron, and their step-brother, Frank Kirby, came to Montana from Grand Junction, Iowa in 1883 and filed on "Desert Claims" so says Mrs. Rowena (Ayers) Humiston, whose mother, Clara, was a sister of Frank Kirby. Mrs. Humiston's parents, Elmer and Clara Ayers, came to Montana in 1886 and took up a "Desert claim" on Bear Creek, two and a half miles from Frank Kirby's claim on Burger Creek.

Add Cameron had the post office in his house and was the first postmaster from 1890 to 1893, at which time Frank Kirby became postmaster. Frank kept the post office until 1898 and then it was moved across the lane to Boardman's and Lillian Boardman took it over. Esther Boardman became postmaster in 1901: Herbert McCaley in 1904; Frank Kirby again in 1909; Wade Lester in 1910; Mattie Lester in 1914; Frank Falbaum in 1919; Bill Eblen in 1937; and Ed McAtee in 1938.

Add and Josie Cameron had a store and post office on the ground floor of a building and a dance or community hall on the upper floor in 1907 (when Mrs. Humiston got married) and then its location was about one-fourth mile south from the Ken Story place on the same side of the county road. Frank Kirby had the store and post office again and it sold to Wade Lester in 1910. Wade Lester ran it until 1919 when he sold it to Frank Falbaum. Falbaum moved the store to its present location which is on Add Cameron's original Tree Claim.
by Smitty Overstreet

For Your Reading Pleasure

You may have attended the meeting or have visited with Deb and Harry Townshend when they give the history of the Upper Madison Valley. Deb has her books available for purchase or check the local libraries for Up Our Way Around the West Fork of the Madison Valley and Up Our Way Continued In the Upper Madison Valley. Both are very interesting for local historians.

Unsolved History Questions

Can anyone help us figure out what the Ennis Cafe space was prior to being the cafe?

Also any information on the Banjo Cafe which was located East of Ennis Hotel.

History Tidbit *The Madisonian* April 9, 1943

Missoula--Betty Rakeam, sophomore at Montana State University, was awarded an "M" pin for active participation in the University Women's Athletic Association. The award was made April 1.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Tod
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be January '05.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Gary Forney
Phyllis Smith
Smitty Overstreet from
Trails and Trials
Sue Ren

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Association
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Mt. 59729

Printing of this newsletter generously
donated by First Madison Valley Bank.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 3 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2005

From the Wagon Seat: Happy, healthy 2005 to everyone. Another year has gone by and they seem to go faster. The year ahead for the MVHA should be a busy one. The board has set some goals for the MVHA to accomplish in 2005. If you wish to help specifically on any of these goals or if you have some different goals, please let us know. We need your help. The goals listed are: 1) finish up the land deal and a rough draft of this by Joe and Stephanie V's attorney has been mailed to them in Arizona. We are progressing!! 2. Rock for plaque at the Grandma Ennis Park 3) Continue our excellent programs. If you have ideas for programs let us know 4) Publish the Jimmy Spray book. We would like to have it retyped by a professional. If you can type or know someone who can, please let us know. 5) Work on a site plan and building plan 6) organize a Pioneer Day that would involve the whole community 7) raffle of an original 4pt. Whitney blanket and a Stan Lynde print. 8) design a logo 9) election for board of directors in May at our annual membership meeting. Please volunteer or say yes when asked to be a director or officer of MVHA. We need your help!!

Remember to let everyone know that we have a mini-museum, that MVHA is an active organization and we need members. Dues are due in January for 2005: we are a 501c3 non-profit organization for tax purposes. Spread the word that the MVHA will be on the move in 2005. **Larry Love, Wagon Master**

Response to inquiry in last issue: From Mary Ann Baker Alger: I got a call from Jean Baker Armstrong to say she had talked to her sister, Elinore Baker Bennetts Kirwood in Davenport, Washington. She is 13 years older than Jean and remembered about the **Ennis Cafe** when her folks (Harry and Ollie Vetter Hungerford Baker) first bought it. They had formerly operated the Trail Cafe on the East end of Main Street which is now the Mortuary. She said that the West end of the **Ennis Cafe** was a Telephone Office, and the East end was Dr. Daniel F. Clancy's office. The part in between was a drug store run by Henry Casper. She thought that Larry Dunn owned the building and that James E. Womack and his wife, France Florina Cerutti lived there. Their son, James Womack, was born there. The attending doctor was Doctor McNallen.

Special thanks to Jean for getting this bit of history to us. We are still looking for information on the **Banjo Cafe**. If you have information on the Banjo, more on the Ennis Cafe or new history on anything else, please write or call a history member. Our motto is "Preserve it or Lose it" and we need help from everyone.

History Tidbit: Nov. 19, 1915 Madisonian Times from the Pony News Section: A. F. Kent has purchased from a Mr. Daems a well improved stock farm 12 miles above Ennis and has taken possession. Mrs. Kent will spend the winter in Pony so as to give her children school advantages.

Dec. 3, 1915 Madisonian Times: Mr. Kent went to Pony to bring back a thoroughbred bull just purchased.

Membership dues are now due for the 2005 year. If you still consider yourself a member of the MVHA, please plan to submit your membership and support us for another year. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

Member Application

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Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(____) Student \$5.00 (____) Individual \$10.00 (____) Family \$15.00 (____) Business \$50.00 (____) Patron \$100.00

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

No new memberships have been recorded since October 2004. **2005 memberships are now due.** See application on first page.

Memorials for 2004

Freda Chamberlin Toner
Alfred Rochez

Clute's Camp

The Madison Valley History Association has been given by Jimmy Carlson copies of original correspondence involving Clute's Camp which was located near Madison Lake. I will reproduce the letters in our newsletter format. Interesting bit of history.

McAllister, Montana Sept. 26, 1945
Roy L. Weld
Spruce Pine, N.C.
Friend Roy:

I received your letter and the samples you sent several days ago, and thank you for both: the latter most interesting, and gave me a good idea of the products you have been producing towards the war effort.

We have just finished the first week of duck hunting, and have been so crowded for space and time, that letter writing could not be gotten to.

This place is a spot, so your recognition of this fact, and interest in the place does not come wholly as a surprise. If Mrs. Alsop and I were a few years younger, place would definitely not be for sale. There is no question in my mind, but that the play that will be coming up from next year on, will be financially profitable. It will also require more from the two of us than we have strength to give, and means, that younger people who like the great out doors will have to carry on where we left off.

This camp has been here since about 1912. It was started as a fishing camp by a man named Alternbrand, who sold it to Jake Harris in 1919.

Harris operated it until 1934, when he sold it without equipment to Liedloff Bros. of Yakama Wash for \$7250.00. They were gamblers and, although they took in plenty of money, they did not save any of it and could not complete their contract. Their family had a hotel in Yakima, so when they left in the fall of 1935, they in turn took everything with them, that they had bought to operate the camp with.

I paid Harris \$5000.00 cash, and expended \$3000.00 more during the summer of 1936, before I had everything that the comfort of my guests called for. As a moneymaker I have brought the camp through the war period in good condition. It really requires very little cash outlay to be operated at capacity.

Although, as you can see from the above dates, the camp has been operated continuously for 27 years, no title has ever been obtained to the land on which it stands. It is a squatters right on a Gvt. 40 acres, withdrawn in 1914 to form a "Power-site Reserve." The first chap did have a chance to file, but neglected to do so, and just before the war started, he wrote that we better drop the matter for the duration, and I have not had time to take it up with him again. My lawyers have advised me that I have nothing to worry about, that, if the Gvt. suddenly decided they wanted this piece of land for any purpose, they would compensate me for my investment.

There is another angle too. The East 9.2 acres are covered by lake water and have been since 1903. The Power Co. themselves have no title to this land, and I have it in writing from them, that, if they ever get title to the 40, they will be glad to deed the 30.80 acres to me, while I in turn have agreed that if I get the 40, I would let them have their 9.2 acres at the same nominal figure. I have \$7500.00 insurance on the property: \$5200.00 on the buildings; \$2300.00 on contents. Nothing on the boats and boat house.

(cont. page 3)

Besides the big cabin which you occupied, there are ten cabins equipped for light house-keeping, and one cabin and a porch with double beds in them that can be used in an emergency. When these sleeping quarters are all being used, the nightly rents comes to \$32.00.

I have only been using 15 boats this year; last year too; but there are eleven more that can be floated. These rent for \$1.50 for any part of a daylight day. I own both the power line and the telephone line: two garages, three motors, 40 oars, tools and ice house. I would also be willing to sell my Chevy pickup truck which is in good condition, and takes the place of a team on the ranch.

The above property at reasonable figures totals \$11850.00 I will take \$8000.00 and \$500 for the truck, which is not included in the first figure.

We have a wealthy man across the lake who resides and votes here. He comes to the valley about the first of June and leaves for Arizona after Thanksgiving. It would be nice if you could spend your summers here, and the colder months attending to your affairs in N. Car. I doubt whether you would want to make a clean break and dispose of all your property down there.

I had a prospective buyer out here from Portland last week, but he did not have all cash, and has gone back to see if he could interest another man to go in with him. I am under no obligation to him, or to anyone else yet, and if you waited to take over next April it would suit me fine to stay here until then. Mrs. Alsop is planning on going to Cal. after the duck hunting is over and will spend several months with her sister down there.

There is just one hunting party occupying two cabins here at present; three men who hunted and fished yesterday. They have two geese, twenty seven ducks and two limits of fish hanging up in front of their cabin already.

I will close now, and any specific questions you may wish to ask, I will answer as reasonably soon and as honestly as I know how.

With kindest personal regards to you all, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Richard Alsop

Contributed by Jimmy Carlson. A letter from Mulrone and Mulrone Lawyers to Mr. Roy L. Weld about this property will appear in April, '05 edition of Wagon Tongue.

History Tidbit From Jan.22, 1943 *Madisonian* Home on Furlough. Pvt. John Vetter arrived Saturday to pass a ten day furlough visting his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Vetter, and other relatives here and over the country. Pvt. Vetter en-listed in the army before Christmas, and has been

receiving his preliminary training at Farragut, Idaho. Upon his return he will receive instructions to become a radio tech.

History of McAllister, Montana

James Alexander McAllister was born in Idaho on Jan. 12, 1868. His father moved with his family to the Meadow Creek area of Madison County, Montana Territory, in 1871. They located a ranch there and James eventually established his own home in 1889. The town of McAllister was established as a town in December, 1896 about 7 miles north of Ennis on land bought by Alex McAllister from the Northern Pacific Railroad. The post office bearing the name McAllister officially was established in 1902 with Dave Lindsay as post master. However, the area had been known as **Meadow Creek** and a post office had been established under that name in 1869 a few miles to the east. A.M. Berry was the first postmaster and Waity Walton also was in charge. In 1880 George Bess was the postmaster and also had a motel. It served residents until the McAllister office opened in 1902.

One of the first churches in Madison County, a Methodist church, was a frame building built in McAllister in 1887. It has since become a Presbyterian church and is still used occasionally.

Information from Names on the Face of Montana by Roberta Cheney, Pioneer Trail and Trials-McAllister, Mt. by Ruth Beals and Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections-McAllister Montana Collection 1869-1964 MSU Library and Bennie Clark by telephone.

For Your Reading Pleasure

The Mechanics of Optimism: Mining Companies, Technology, and the Hot Springs Gold Rush, Montana Territory, 1864-1868 by Jeffrey J. Safford

This book is by our January guest speaker and his study is more illustratiave of what was going on in the early mining frontier than the studies of the Bonanza Kings or communities like Virginia City. This book is available at our library.

Too Poor to Move but Always Rich by Jim Sargent

This book offers the reader a chance to experience the unfolding of the twentieth century as lived by his parents, the Norwegian and the Honyocker, who struggle through decades of phenomenal change on a dry-land Montana ranch. Also available at our public library.

History Tidbit From *Madisonian* Years Ago 1903 The Armitage Orchestra of Ennis gave a dance in the Pannell and Faires hall near Harrison. Pony, Norris, Ennis, Willow Creek, and Sapp ington were well represented.

History Tidbits From the *Madisonian* January 1, 1943 Honor Roll Students

Honor roll students in the Ennis High School the past six weeks number 15. To be eligible for the honor roll a student must have an average of "B" or 90 and no grade below "C" or 85.

Seniors: Dick McGuire 93.75, Lois Harris 92.5, Naomi Stoltz 91.25, Evelyn Haldorson 90 and Norris Stewart 90.

Juniors: Philip Hutton 95, Bob McGuire 91.25 and Bob Storey 91.25.

Sophomores: Norman Chamberlin 91.25, Rita McDowell 91.25

Freshmen: Doris Matzick 93.75, Diana McGuire 93.75, Betty Althouse 92.5, Kay Hautier 90, Catherine Mayo 90.

From the *Madisonian* Years Ago 1928

Nelson garage of Ennis announced an "outstanding" new line of Chevrolet vehicles. The six vehicles range in price from \$525 to \$725 and offer such features as 20 miles per gallon, and style without high cost.

The Friends of the Library of the Madison Valley Public Library invites you to a book signing on January 29, 10:30 to 1:00. Dr. Jeffrey Safford will be talking at 11:00 am and signing copies of his book, Mechanics of Optimism. If you missed him at the history program, come hear him at this time or hear him again as this program will be different.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this newsletter is generously done by First Madison Valley Bank. Thank you.

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Vice President: Jim Carlson

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Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: Jimmy Carlson
Roberta Cheney
Ruth Beals from
Trails and Trials

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 3 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2005

From the Wagon Seat: Seems as though Spring and Ole Man Winter are still in conflict! Our winter for the MVHA was filled with brain storming and throwing out ideas hoping to find the best route to meet our goals beginning with: #1 Land deal is on hold until the Vujovichs return from Arizona. #2 In April we will go to the Yellowstone mine and select a rock for the plaque at Grandma Ennis Park #3 Continue with our excellent programs. Do you have a program idea? Let us know about it. #4 Progress has and is being made on publication of the Jimmy Spray book. #5 Building information is with a volunteer site planner. #6 Ennis Chamber has agreed to advertize our Pioneer Day. Much work to be done on that project ! #7 Make a decision on when to hold our next raffle. #8 Get a logo designed. #9 Hold our election for 2 positions for the Board of Directors in May at our annual membership meeting.

May annual membership meeting will be at the Social Hall of the Episcopal church in Jeffers at 6:00 pm May 12. Plan to join us for a pot luck dinner.

The July 4th parade theme is Westward Ho! This fits right into our mission of the MVHA. Please submit your ideas for our parade float. If you would like to be the chairperson to organize this project contact any board member.

The mini-museum needs a spring cleaning. Plan to help out and sign up for your turn to work the summer museum hours whlich are Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 starting with Memorial Day weekend.

Remember Regular meetings at 7:00pm starting in April on the second Thursday of each month. Looking forward to a great spring and summer. Your wagon Master, Zoe Todd

History Tidbit Missionaries in the Madison Valley

Our February program was missionaries in the Madison Valley and as an off shoot of that program, the MVHA is planning to have field trips next summer to the various churches in the Madison Valley area. Watch for dates and times of these summer field trips. The Wagon Tongue will print histories of the local churches starting with the history of the **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church provided by Marcella Tart.**

The first recorded Lutheran service as on June 5, 1949 at the VFW Hall lead by Rev. Wm. Friederick of Three Forks with 15 persons in attendance. From 1950 thru 1980 services were conducted by ministers from Bozeman and Three Forks. Services were held at the VFW Hall, Nursing home and basement of the Catholic Church.

In 1982 the Lutheran Church shared a pastor from Three Forks and a Vicar from Bozeman. Two lots were purchased in 1982 at the corner of Madison and Armitage Streets in Ennis.

In 1987 planning committees were established. Ground breaking was held on Nov. 1, 1987 and the first service in their own building was held on Jan. 10, 1988.

In August 2002 a shep rancher and member agreed to serve us as lay minister. In November 2004 he became a Vicar and is continuing his studies to be ordained.

Nov. 2004 the church was dedicated and the new additon to the Sheperd of the Hills Lutheran Church was dedicated.

Membership dues are now due for the 2005 year. If you still consider yourself a member of the MVHA, please plan to submit your membership and support us for another year. **If you have a colored sticker on the address page, you have not paid your dues. If you do not have a sticker, you have paid your dues and do not have to pay twice !** If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

+++++

Member Application

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

A complete membership list including names, addresses and phone numbers will be printed with our July Newsletter. Hopefully the membership will be complete for continuing members at that time.

New members since January 2005.

Addresses are Ennis unless stated.

Clark, Bennie & Gary 682-4475
126 Jeffers Loop

Haigh, June 682-4936
PO Box 98

Jeffers, Jeff & Jeanne (425)644-5202
4910 127th. PL. S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98006-2944

Safford, Jeff 587-3782
8 Hill Street

Bozeman, MT. 59715-6015
Sant, Mark 287-5247

40 Primrose Lane
Silver Star, MT 59751
Kris & Tom Schreiber 682-3732

415 MT Hwy 287 #5
Gail & Harold White
682-3169

PO Box 848
+++++

Devil's Rope

Since the beginning of time, man has constructed barriers from natural materials adjacent to the barrier site, mostly wood from trees, stone, thorny bush and mud. The settlers of the Great Plains of America found these materials in short supply thus creating a demand for more economical type of fencing.

When livestock encountered barbed wire for the first time, it was usually a painful experience. The injuries provided sufficient reason for the public to protest its use. Religious groups called it "the work of the devil," or "The Devil's Rope" and demanded removal.

Free range grazers became alarmed that the economical new barrier would mean the end of their livelihood. Trail Drives were concerned their herds would be blocked from the Kansas markets by settler fences of lands the Ranchmen has once possessed without legal title. Barbed wire development stalled.

The violence occurring between landowners building fences to protect livestock and crops, and those opposed fighting to keep their independence necessitated the enactment of laws making wire cutting a felony. After many deaths and uncountable financial losses, the Fence Cutter Wars ended.

Today there are over 530 patented barbed wires, approximately 2,000 variations and over 2,000 barbed wire tools.
Submitted by Phyllis Plath

Night Life in Sterling

When Henry Ward went of to San Francisco in early 1867 shopping for a new stamp mill, his right-hand man at Midasburg, kept him informed of doings back home. After a "night out" at Sterling City, Gilbert wrote:

Mrs. Adams is lovely and Sam attentive. I took her to the dance at Bailey's the 22nd.--tried to get Farwell to, but he was afraid of offending Van or Brawner or some of the others that had the mitten. Mrs. Woods broke up the party. She went in on her muscle. Proposed to "knock the devil" out of Neil Campbell because he did his duty as floor manager and stopped a rowdy--one of her friends--from disturbing the party. I think I shall have let Mrs. Adams go to Virginia and Sam with her to keep bugbears off. The filling has come out of her tooth and she needs high, well fitting shoes because of varicose veins. Her uncle looks badly. Hope you are having a good time. The "Housel" is a big thing.

Gilbert to Ward, Feb. 1867, Ward papers

-Submitted by Jeff Safford

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Clute's Camp (continued from January 2005 Wagon Tongue.)

The Madison Valley History Association has been given by Jimmy Carlson copies of original correspondence involving Clute's Camp which was located near Madison Lake. This a letter from Mulroney and Mulroney Lawyers to Mr. Roy L. Weld:

Mulroney & Mulroney
Lawyers
Rooms 300 to 303 Montana Building
Missoula, Montana

Edward C Mulroney Thomas E. Mulroney

October 16, 1945

Mr. Roy L. Weld
Spruce Pine
North Carolina
Dear Mr. Weld:

Mel Daniels, who is an old friend of mine, came to see me yesterday and brought me the copy of Mr. Alsop's letter.

I wish I could tell you definitely whether or not you would be perfectly safe in buying this property. No man can positively assure you that you would be safe. This land has been withdrawn to form a power site reserve. In all probability, it will never be required for use by the government for that or any other purpose, and some day it will probably be thrown up for entry, and, of course, the occupant will have the first right to file on it, but no man can look far enough in the future to know what the government will do in respect to the matter. The Secretary of the Interior may some day declare that this is necessary for use as a power site. I doubt that very much, however.

It is my belief that you would be perfect safe to buy the property, but I would want it very distinctly understood that this a a belief only and is not given as a legal opinion. In all probability the Secretary of Interior himself could not answer the question as to whether or not it will be required by the government for power site purpose. I doubt very much if the government will ever relinquish the ownership of it, but on the other hand, I doubt very much that the government will ever require the use of it. I wish I were able to give you a definite and positive legal opinion, but I cannot do it, and I am sure no other person can.

Mel insisted on paying me for writing this letter. I charged him \$2.00 only, however, and was entirely willing to write it without any fee. He asked that I return the Alsop letter to you, and I here-with enclose it.

Very truly yours
E. V Mulroney

ECM : rd
Enc.

Contributed by Jimmy Carlson. The letter from Richard Alsop to Roy L. Weld was printed in January 2005 Wagon Tongue

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We have reported on Clute's Camp and Bob Foreman gave a good program on the Power Plant and dam which formed Meadow Lake (or Ennis Lake or Madison Lake) I found a good article on the ice harvest on Meadow Lake which the Wagon Tongue will share with you this month.

Ice Harvest by Harold Kilner from Pioneer Trails and Trials

Cold weather brought on the Ice Harvest on Meadow Lake, which was a week or more of great activity.

Bert Maynard had a large ice house and a lot of the necessary equipment for getting the ice out of the water. He kept checking the ice until it was the right thickness for harvesting, usually 16-18 inches. When the ice was right, Bert would call by phone and say that he was going to "plow ice" and to come and help harvest.

The ice plow was horse drawn, with spike-like blades that marked the rows, guided by one man, with another holding the handles. The ice was plowed lengthwise and sawed crosswise. It was a cooperative effort. After the ice was marked into squares, sawed and spudded off, it was pulled out of the water with ice tongs, pulled by a horse. The wagon had a couple of planks for a ramp, leaned up against the back end. The ice ws skidded up into the wagon box.

Every home and store at that time had an ice house. It was full of sawdust, and open under the eaves for ventilation. When prepared for the ice, it was shoveled out and poles had been laid on the ground--ice houses had no floors. A layer of ice was laid on the poles and some ice was crushed and packed between the blocks. Then a layer of sawdust was spread on top about two inches deep. This was done alternately until the ice house as filled to the eaves. The top layer was a deep layer of sawdust. Now you were ready for the hot weather.

All hauling was done with horses and wagons. The horses had to be "sharp shod"--neverslip calks were used.

Some coolers were made by enclosing a small building within the ice house. The ice was packed around the sides and on top of this cold room. Both the ice house and the cold room had tight doors.

Anyone who was willing to help could come and haul ice away. In later years trucks replaced the horse drawn wagons.

If well packed the ice lasted through the summer and early fall.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Breaking Smith's Quarter Horse by Paul St. Pierre. This story takes place in Canada but could easily have been Montana."...Smith and his cronies are a vanishing breed.." Vancouver Sun

Journal of a Trapper by Osborne Russell. This book will be helpful to read as it includes the area of the Indian fight site which we will be working on with Mark Sant in the future.

If you have read or know of any good books that you would like included in our **For Your Reading Pleasure**, please submit titles to Shirley Love.
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Annual Meeting

The annual membership meeting of the MVHA will be held on May 12 at 6:00 pm at the Trinity Episcopal Social Hall. It will be a potluck supper with the history association providing ham, turkey and beverages. All names starting with A to H will bring a casserole of any kind. Names starting with I to P will bring a salad of any kind and Q through Z will bring desserts. We will eat at 6:00, and meeting with election of two board positions will be at 7:00. The program for this meeting is still in the planning stages. Plan on attending!!

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Mt. 59729

Printing of this newsletter generously donated by
First Madison Valley Bank

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2005 .

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Jimmy Carlson
Phyllis Plath
Jeff Safford
Marcella Tart
Harold Kilmer from Pioneer Trails and Trials

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 3 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2005

From the Wagon Seat: From the Wagon Seat: July 4th has come and gone. The grass is plentiful, it is getting hotter and time marches on. The MVHA Vim return to its regular meeting time on Sept 8 at the VFfv at 7:00pm. Summer meetings have been our field trips. The MVHA float for the 4th of July Parade was good. It took 1st place in the local entry category. A big thank you to Darlene and Fred Rochez, Don Neville, Pearl Kilman, Karen Shores, Julia, Michael', Kellan and Bailey Flynn, Zoe Todd, Shirley and Larry Love, Mary Ann Alger, Neil Kent, Bonnie and Kelsey McNabb, Bev Claassen, Jacquie Arnold, RoWe Hebel and Stan Mainwaring with his horses. It was a great team effort. Thanks a bunch.

A letter will be sent soon to Stephanie and Joe Vujovich about the land papers. We still have not found the right rock for the plaque at Grandma Ennis Park but we are working on it. Our summer field trips are going very well. The first trip in June was to the dredge on Washington Bar and was attended by 51 interested people. Seeing the dredge was a first for many people in the group. Our next trip (the day you get this quarterly newsletter) will be July 17 for the hike on the Bozeman Road. The August field trip will be hearing and seeing the history of several churches in the area starting with the historic Presby1erian Church at McAllister. It will be held Wed. Aug. 24 meeting at the crossroads in McAllister at 1:00pm, going to the historic church, then to the Madison Valley Baptist Church and concluding at Jeffers at Trinity Church and ending about 4:00pm. Not all churches are included in this field trip and another tour or two will be held at a later dates to include histories of other local churches.

Our museum is being seen by a few people and we vlould like to see a lot more traffic through it. Tel! your friends and relatives about it and plan it as a destination for your summer guests. We are open Saturday and Sundays from 1-4pm or by special appointment. We need volunteers to sign up for a shift of keeping the museum open for the rest of July and for August. Please plan to help your MVHA out by taking a Saturday or Sunday shift. Just call 682-5780 and we will get you scheduled.

Pioneer Days has been canceled due to lack of help, enthusiasm and cooperation. We will try for our Old Time Social in September. We need ideas, a theme, etc. for that. Also if you have suggestions for speakers or programs for the monthly meetings, let Smitty Overstreet or one of the board members know of your idea.

Your Wagon Masters, Larry Love and Zoe Todd

History Tidlbit : ONE FISH LIMIT PLACED ON WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR The state fish and game commission has placed a possession of one fish for sportsman angling in the Willow Creek Reservoir near Harrison. The new regulation goes into effect on Saturday. Purpose of the one fish limit is to help educate fishermen catching the big ones mainly for sport to release those fish that are unhurt when hooked. The Madisonian, Friday June 20, 1941.

Membership dues are now due for the 2005 year. If you still consider yourself a member of the MVHA, please plan to submit your membership and support us for another year. **If you have a colored sticker on the address page, you have not paid your dues. If you do not have a sticker, you have paid your dues and do not have to pay twice !** Check the membership list..if your name is not on the list, you are not a member yet. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

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(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

A Capitol Idea
by Gary Forney

Thousands of Montanans, including military units and the State Band, crowded onto the lawn of the state capital building at Helena on July 4, 1905. The occasion of this festive gathering was the dedication of a memorial statue to Thomas Francis Meagher. Meagher had been a fiery leader in the cause of Irish nationalism, brigadier-general of the legendary Irish Brigade in America's Civil War, and had served as the first secretary of the Montana Territory and two stints as acting governor--from September 1865 until his mysterious death on July 1, 1867.

The idea for a monument honoring Meagher began to take shape in Butte on St. Patrick's Day in 1898, with the founding of the Meagher Memorial Association. The association was established with some of the most prominent men to be found in Montana at that time. Marcus Daly was elected president of the association; Martin Maginnis, Montana's Congressional Delegate, was elected Vice-President; and the trustees included R.P. O'Brien, John O'Meara, P.S. Harrington and James Lynch. The association invited the general public to offer donations to the monument--with one exception. No doubt due to the influence of Daly, it was publicly announced that the committee would not accept any donation from the old warhorse of Montana's Republican Party (and former Vigilante) Wilbur Fisk Sanders.

The cornerstone of the memorial's base was dedicated in early October, 1904, as the prominent sculptor, Charles J. Mulligan, labored at completing his larger-than-life bronze of Meagher. Around the base of the monument are four bronze tablets inscribed with biographical notes and excerpts from various speeches, including Meagher's celebrated "Sword Speech"

A few months later, the memorial's dedication ceremonies were held on a warm, breezy July 4. The festivities began with a parade from the county courthouse to the capitol grounds, and included several Civil War veterans--both Union and Confederate. Among the dignitaries participating in the program were Governor Joseph Toole and Helena's mayor, Mr. R.R. Purcell, who stated in his remarks that: "in honoring the memory of Thomas Francis Meagher we honor the memory of the champions of liberty of all time under whatever flag they have struggled and died for the right of the people." Miss Anastasia O'Meara was given the honor of unveiling the large bronze statue, which portrays Meagher in military uniform, astride a spirited horse, and--in tribute to his legendary sobriquet--with his upraised hand holding a sword as if about to engage in combat. The event's keynote speaker was the renowned Irish orator John F. Finerty, who opined that "what Ireland lost in Meagher, you won ... what Ireland lost in the emigration of millions of her children .. America has gained. I can only say that in days to come, when Ireland seeks to be free and when America is in danger, may both countries have thousands of such sons as was Thomas Francis Meagher."

Fast-forward one hundred years. Thanks to the efforts of Helena's chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, funds were raised during the past year to beautifully clean and restore the Meagher monument. On July 5, 2005, the Hibernians hosted a rededication celebration on the capitol grounds featuring bagpipes, a program by noted Irish scholar John Hearne, and comments by Lt. Governor John Bollinger. Make it a point to visit, or revisit, the monument on your next trip to Helena and see for yourself this wonderful memorial to Montana's Irish Heritage.

Gary Forney is an active member of the MVHA and author of Thomas Francis Meagher, Irish Rebel, American Yankee. Montana Pioneer

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Memberships through July 9, 2005**

Student, Individual, Family, Business, Patron
All address for Ennis, MT unless otherwise indicated.

Note: Please save this list for future reference

Alger, George & Mary Ann (F)	73 Jeffers Rd.	682-7361
Armstrong, Jean(I)	P.O. Box 694	682-4397
Angle, W. S. "Bud" (I)	P.O. Box 371	682-4855
Arnold, Rick & Jacquie (F)	P.O. Box 607	682-5042
Banks, Robert & Carolyn (F)	515 S. Pacific St. Dillon, Mt. 59725	683-4867
Barnett, Dode & Vurnie Kay (F)	P.O. Box 186	682-4313
Bayley, Bob & Shirley (F)	P.O. Box 399	682-4102
Beals, Jack & Sally (F)	18700 SW Tualata Ave Lake Oswego, OR. 97035	503-639-9478
Bennetts, Chuck (I)	815 S. Atlantic Dillon, MT 59725	683-4528
Bowen, Toni & Don (F)	P.O. Box 1490	682-4290
Braxton Ranch Corporation	P.O. Box 1377	682-4387
Carlson, Jim(I)	P.O. Box 61 McAllister,MT 59740	682-3844
Claassen, Beverly (I)	P.O. Box 1375	682-5598
Clark, Ed & Merrilyn (F)	P.O. Box 572	682-4679
Clark, Gary & Bennie (F)	126 Jeffers Loop	682-4475
Clausen, Mary(I)	P.O. Box 1492	682-7096
	(winter)P.O.Box 4503, Tubac, AZ 85646	
Combs, Pete (I)	P.O. Box 577	682-4867
Coffman, Ted (I)	P.O. Box 961	682-4567
Cole, Gail (I)	P.O. Box 1464	682-7097
Crennen, Martin & Margaret Ann(F)	919 Mauldin, Helena, MT 59601	443-2911
Curnow, Ed & Maureen(Cheney)(F)	556 Bear Creek Loop Rd Cameron, MT 59720	682-4940
Davis, Monte & Dixie (F)	P.O. Box 1378	682-4033
Dick, Nancy & Bill(F)	208 Marina Loop, W. Yellowstone, MT 59758	646-7958
Dunham,Richard & Barbara(Dunn)(F)	281 Spurwick Ave. Cape Elizabeth, ME. 04107	207-767-5740
Durham, Mona(I)	P.O. Box 214, Cameron, MT 59720	682-4638
Eckert, Patsy (I)	P.O. Box 850	682-4256
First Madison Valley Bank (P)	P.O. Box 307	682-4215
Forney, Gary R. (I)	P.O. Box 270	682-4096
Gordon, Martin A. & Victoria L. (F)	86 MT Hwy 287 N	682-7527
Gustafson, Shirley (I)	245 Jeffers Road	682-4874
Haigh, June (I)	P.O. Box 98	682-4936
Hale, Pat (I)	573 MT Hwy 287 #6	682-4191
Hanni, Gene & Ethelyn	P.O. Box 1575	682-4348
Hudson Family, Betty (F)	Wonder Ranch/ Betty Hudson General Del. Cameron, Mt 59720	
Jeffers, Jeff & Jeanne(F)	410 127th PL SE, Bellvue, WA	425-644-5202
Kent, Neil (I)	P.O. Box 8	682-4308
Kiefer, Larry (I)	104 North Lewis Ave. Hardin, Mt 59043	
Kilman, Pearl & Les(F)	Box 503 Pony, Mt. 59747	685-3326
Kirby, Jack & Barbara (F)	P.O. Box 692	682-4881
Klatt, Lester & Bobbi(F)	P.O. Box 224	682-7119
Larson, Craig (I)	2122 45th Ave.NE. Columbia Heights, MN. 55421	763-789-5975,2989
Lee, Richard & Rosemay(F)	P.O.Box 306, Virginia City,MT 59755	843-5506
Lounsbury, John & Lois (F)	P.O. Box 334, McAllister, Mt.59740	682-3239

Love, Larry & Shirley (F)	P.O. Box 1018	682-5780
Love, Carole (I)	1000 Lover's Leap Rd Dillon, Mt. 59725	683-2181
Love, Marvin & Terry (F)	P.O. Box 634 Townsend, Mt. 59644	266-4294
Madison Drilling & Pump Supply (B)	P.O. Box 1378	682-4997
Maitin, Margaret (I)	#1 Comley Road	682-4466
Mayne, Mike & Patty (F)	2060 Hwy. 287N Cameron, Mt 59720	682-7154
(winter)	1766 Carrera Drive San Jacinto, CA 92583	949-574-0446
McCook, Bill & Sue (P)	31953 Aguacate Rd San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-3001	949-240-1665
Neville, Don "Kid" (I)	P.O. Box 254	682-4321
Overstreet, P.S. "Smitty" (I)	450 Varney Road	682-4405
Pate, Barbara (I)	P.O. Box 1172	682-3344
Plath, Phyllis J. (I)	P.O. Box 27	682-5480
Rochez, Fred & Darlene (P)	P.O. Box 254	682-5794
(winter)	31 Whitewind Lane Las Vegas, NV 89110	
Roedel, Judy (I)	P.O. Box 232	682-4960
Rummel, Michael P (I)	10484 Gretler Place LaMesa, CA 91941	619-593-1988
Rybus, Jane (I)	P.O. Box 295	682-4377
Safford, Jeff (I)	8 Hill St., Bozeman, Mt. 59715	587-3782
Sant, Mark (I)	40 Primrose Lane, Silver Star, Mt 59751	287-5247
Schreibner, Tom & Kris (F)	415 Mt. Hwy 287 #5	682-3732
Shores, Karen (I)	556 Bear Creek Loop, Cameron, Mt 59720	682-4935
Cheney, Roberta (I)	1106 Bear Creek Loop Cameron, Mt. 59720	682-4636
Smith, Phyllis (I)	520 S. Wilson Bozeman, Mt 59715	587-9273
Smith, Sally (I)	P.O. Box 547, Dillon, Mt 59725	683-2198
Stewart, Marvin L (I)	P.O. Box 1320, Dillon, MT 59725	683-5313
Stiles, Mary (I)	P.O. Box 186, Virginia City, Mt 59755	843-5340
Thexton, Don (I)	335 Varney Road	682-4833
Todd, Zoe (I)	P.O. Box 531	682-4360
Townshend, Deb (I)	P.O. Box 221	682-7571
(winter)	409 Townsend Ave, New Haven Ct. 06512	
Valgenti, Frank (I)	P.O. Box 9, Bozeman, Mt. 59715	586-0256
Vetter, Frank (I)	4568 151 Ave SE Bellvue, WA 98006	425-746-1936
Visintin, Shirley (I)	P.O. Box 1347	682-3254
Walsh, Eugene & Lois (F)	3055 Hwy 287 N, Cameron, Mt 59720	682-4898
Watson, Emily Angle (I)	3803 Coulson Rd Billings, Mt 59101	252-6766
Weigand, Michael & Patti (F)	PO Box 1126 W. Yellowstone, Mt 59758	498-9987
(winter)	1201 Camino Dos Rios Thousand Oaks, CA 91360	
White, Gail & Horold (F)	P.O. Box 848	682-3169
Wilkins, Marilyn (Toby) (I)	P.O. Box 521	682-4584
Wing, Dave & Jerry	P.O. Box 247 McAllister, MT 59740	682-5502
Wright, Alice & Chuck (F)	P.O. Box 576	682-7890
(winter)	1917 W. Steinback Dr. Anthem, AZ 85086	
Young, Frances (Clark) (F)	3215 Timberline Ct Ketchikan, Ak 99901	907-225-3529

Any corrections, address changes, or just plain typo errors, please contact Shirley Love at above address, telephone # or e mail: whitney@3rivers.net.

A Tribute to a Pioneer Woman

by Charles L. Anceney, Sr.

Marie Angelique Frezat, wife of Charles Anxionnaz, known here as Anceney, a native of Savoir, France, was born July 6th, 1829, of parents noted with natural intelligence and very industrious, owning, besides their modest share of real estate, a flouring mill, a saw mill, and various little shops, one in particular where cutlery was manufactured, and where temper for the same, which was never surpassed in quality, was invented by her grandfather, Martin Frezat. For turning all these, water power was utilized with a great deal of genius, which proved of great value to the community.

The Frezat relatives stand in their native country with an honorable and remarkably good reputation in every respect. Angelique, like the rest of the family, but more so, was naturally robust, of strong constitution, commanding a great deal of physical strength and noble courage, as well as a great deal of ambition. After her marriage she started from her native country, through the world with her first husband, Jeremiah Thomas in 1852, endeavoring to make an independent living--residing awhile in Paris, where she engaged in jewelry making; then she went to Belgium and from there to the New World, arriving in Chicago in 1856, and there began sewing for a clothing factory. After the gathering of more means, they pursued their course farther West, and settled in the neighborhood of Wyandotte, Kansas, on a little piece of land which they bought. There an elegant little garden was worked by Mrs. Thomas, while her husband was working at his trade as a carpenter. This employment caused his death by sunstroke while covering a house. During his illness of 4 months, Mrs. Thomas had to earn money for doctor expenses and care of the sick with products of her garden, marketed by herself every morning at Wyandotte City, a distance of two miles. At the time of her husband's death, she also lost her little eight month old daughter, and was left a widow with a little son of three years.

She was married a second time to Charles Anceney in 1859 in the neighborhood of Kansas City, Mo. That time began his prosperity. He was then more in debt than he had means to cover. In consequence of the war of secession, Anceney's family became very destitute, as did many others. Being located in a very dangerous place, Mrs. Anceney advised her husband to abandon their home in Missouri to the mercy of bushwhackers. In the spring of 1861, he located the family under her care in the Cow River bottom, Kansas, with hardly any means of support but a small patch of land, plowed but unseeded, to which she devoted her time, while her husband would venture a trip

to the Pike's Peak mines. In the following December, upon returning from the mines, with very little gold dust, the husband found a little treasure at home and was presented as a start to the new family, with a nice baby of 5 months, named Aline Anceney. He found plenty of means to winter the family such as a fine lot of pork ready to butcher, a nice lot of potatoes, and all kinds of vegetables; plenty of corn with which to winter the cattle that they had brought across the plains. All this she had gathered with her own labor and industry, placing the family in fit circumstances to start the following spring for Pike's Peak.

At the mines the wife made more money by keeping a boarding house and washing and sewing for the miners than the husband dug out of the ground. From this comes the Anceney stock growing pursuit. After one more trip to the states for the purpose of buying cattle, they started from Denver for Montana in the fall of 1863, too late to continue through. Mrs. Anceney here proved a valuable assistant to her husband. After much trouble, encountering every danger, through snow and icy trails, having in addition in her care Charles Leon, then aged 6 months, the family was compelled to stop at Soda Springs, Idaho for the remainder of the winter. Mrs. Anceney sold her jewelry and most valuable clothing (some of which she had brought from France) to Mormon ladies. This bought feed with which to save the lives of the cattle and by doing so checked the threatened total loss of the stock which would have left the family completely destitute.

They arrived at Summit City, Alder Gulch, in May 1864 and her husband was busy packing provisions from Virginia City to Summit and watching over the management of a small lot of cows, the milk from which was sold to miners. Mrs. Anceney was running the French restaurant most successfully and many of the Montana miners will always remember the oft repeated suggestion, "Let us go to the French restaurant to get a square meal," for Mrs. Anceney was an excellent cook. The restaurant was sold in the fall of 1864 to Walkins and Rixrood for the sum of \$1,600 due in a measure to its good reputation.

(to be continued)

A Tribute to a Pioneer Woman, a Biographical story of Mrs. Marie Anceney by her husband, Charles Anceney, reprinted from the Bozeman Avant-Courier of April 27, 1882 will be continued in the October issue so stay tuned.

Article submitted by Smitty Overstreet and minor editing done by the editor.

If you want to read more about the Anceney family or the beginnings of the Flying D Ranch, you will find this information on pages 761-764 of Pioneer Trails and Trials.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Forty Years on the Frontier by Granville Stuart
No one could write of pioneer life more authoritatively than Granville Stuart

Undaunted Courage by Steven Ambrose
This book is mentioned this summer as the United States is celebrating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. If you are a beginner in Lewis and Clark lore, this book is the best beginning. Even if you are an avid L&C fan, you will find this book delightful.

Take note

August meeting will be a **field trip** to historic and local churches. Aug. 24 1:00pm-4:00pm
See description of trip in From the Wagon Seat.

Fly Fishing Festival-Sept 1-3. MVHA will be participating in some way.

Regular meetings will resume again on Sept.8 and Oct 13 at VFW at 7:00pm Programs to be announced

Old Time Social will be sometime in September.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.
Next issue will be October 2005 .

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Gary Forney
Charles Anceney from the
Bozeman Avant-Courier
April 27, 1882

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Mt. 59729

Printing of this newsletter generously donated by
First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 3 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2005

From the Wagon Seat: It is getting colder at night, snow is in the mountains, the gold colors are showing up, geese are flying overhead, flocks of birds are getting ready to fly south, and hunters are starting to move in. Those are sure signs that fall is here. The MVHA also will welcome fall by returning to its "fall back" time for our regular meetings starting Nov. 10 at 4:00pm. Since our July issue of WT, the MVHA has gone on two more field trips with great response from our members and the public. Member Bob Bayley assisted by Jim Jarvis led a group of historians from the court house in Virginia City up the Bozeman Trail. You can still see the remains of the trail east of the cemetery up the hill at an angle to the east to the top of the hill. In August, the MVHA toured the old historic Presbyterian Church in McAllister, the Madison Valley Baptist Church on Hwy 287 heading into Ennis and the Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers. Thanks to Neil Kent, Devona Owens and Karen Shores for leading the history stories of these churches. We will continue the history tours of the other churches in the Madison Valley and surrounding area next summer,

Zoe Todd sold her building so we no longer have our mini-museum to display artifacts collected so far. All our historical items are in storage for now, thanks to Neil Kent. A big thank you to the following MVHA members who put in hours packing up and moving: Mary Ann Alger, Deb Townshend, Zoe Todd, Bev Claassen, Jane Rybus, Jacquie Arnold, Margaret Maitin, Smitty Overstreet, John Lounsbury, Pat & Dave Hale, Gary Forney, Neil Kent, Shirley & Larry Love, Mona Durham, Harold White and possibly others who we do not have recorded. Thank you!!

The MVHA has received a formal letter from Joe and Stephanie Vujovich saying that it was their firm commitment to donate an acre of land for our museum. They are developing the land from Madison Foods north to the Christian Science Church with the last acre designated for the museum. They hope to complete all the paperwork for this development by the end of the year.

The MVHA oral history committee, thanks to Smitty Overstreet, Carol Orr, and Barbara Pate, have been hard at work compiling oral histories of our Madison Valley people, recording their stories and putting them on CD. By the time you get this newsletter, our Old Time Pie and Dance Social will be over. It was a great success with 50 in attendance. A big thank you to all the ladies who brought pies and all the successful bidders. The MVHA also participated in the Fly Fishing Festival over Labor Day weekend. We received a generous donation from the Hutchens Bridge Committee which will be put toward our museum.

There is going to be a lot of work to do in 2006 if we are to continue with our goals and mission statement. First of all, we need to find a building to house our artifacts for a temporary museum. Please pass any suggestions, ideas or offers on to the MVHA board. We need everybody's help. It will take some plain, old hard work filled with compromise, perseverance and money. Keep the MVHA in your end of the year tax planning and estate planning. With everyone helping out in whatever ways they can, we will succeed!! Your Wagon Masters, Larry Love and Zoe Todd

Membership dues are now due for the 2005 year. If you still consider yourself a member of the MVHA, please plan to submit your membership and support us for the 2005 year. **If you have a bright neon colored sticker near your address mailing label, you have not paid your dues. If you do not have a sticker, you have paid your dues and do not have to pay twice!** Many of you already have your membership card in your possession. If not, your new Membership card is attached below. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

+++++
Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(____) Student \$5.00 (____) Individual \$10.00 (____) Family \$15.00 (____) Business \$50.00 (____) Patron \$100.00

A Tribute to a Pioneer Woman
by Charles L. Anceney, Sr.

Continued from July 2005 Wagon Tongue

In the last installment, the Anceney's had just sold their French restaurant for \$1,600 due in a measure to its good reputation of Mrs. Anceney as the cook.

The Anceneys moved to Hamilton in November, 1864, where she has resided ever since, remaining the main source of happiness to her family. In March 1865 she became mother to Louise, her baby. In 1869 she enthusiastically advised her husband to sell enough cattle to enable him to go after his daughter, Mary, child of his first wife, who was left in France with the Anceney relatives. When Mr. Anceney got ready to start, late in the fall, his brother, Joseph, was taken sick, announcing symptoms of dropsy. This was considered by the husband as an obstacle interrupting the pursuance of his voyage to Europe, but urged by his heroic wife, saying to him, "You know not when you can gather enough money again; do not miss this opportunity to perform a duty commanded to you as father. I will take charge and responsibility of everything here, and will not neglect the care of Uncle Joseph. Go after your child, which you have not seen since she was a year old; bring her here in our family: you and all of us will be more happy." He went. Returning from France, on the 5th of June, 1870, he found that everything promised by his valuable wife had been fulfilled; the only regret she had was not to have been able to prolong the life of her brother-in-law until the arrival of her husband. But the disease was incurable; he had to go when the hour came. Everything was in perfect order, the stock having been well wintered and well taken care of; a nice lot of dairy cows were bringing a valuable income; the whole farm was well seeded, having every appearance of a promising crop, which did prove to be the best crop ever raised on Mr. Anceney's ranch. Mr. Anceney often said, "I could never have managed things as well in the absence of my wife as she did in mine."

This noble wife and mother never spared herself for the comfort of her folks and neighbors: always ready to carry the heaviest part of the load, with noble courage, she has not only been a valuable adviser to both of her husbands, but also the main leader in most every event of their lives. She loved her family with a tender heart, and took great comfort in seeing them all around her. Her primary education was only limited. She was a self made lady, possessing a good degree of intelligence; a well read person, having a very good knowledge of the history of the world; always agreeable to society, having a good word for everyone; moderate in her visits, excepting when she could do some one some good,

which she never refused to do, at any time of the day or night, even after she was afflicted with the invalidation which finally took her to the grave. She was handy at any kind of work or occupation, plain and truthful; possessing the true principles of temperance and economy, but not stinginess or avarice; loving to see home well supplied. She always set a good table, striving to procure comfort to all around her. She had no fancy or artificial style and has done a great deal of good to many. Charitable to the poor and needy one, prompt in visiting the sick, she has saved many lives. She was especially noted among the children of the neighborhood in which she last resided, and where she will never be forgotten by her many friends. Her religion did not consist in long prayers or in appearances, but she proved the true religion in her noble heart, without ceremony or desire of notoriety.

She died as she had lived--merely went to sleep without any pain, remained very natural and to the last moment before she was placed in the grave, she was yet smiling to those she who shed tears around her coffin. The disappearance of Mrs. Anceney from our midst will only too truly confirm the sad truth of her general loss. Now that she cannot help us longer in this weak world so full of adversity, we should not fail to introduce her example into practice, which will be so precious to our mutual welfare, and contribute to such a great extent to render our lives more agreeable. From this time on her heartbroken husband will look to his children for consolation as their mother and father were very much alike in every respect, and were what can be called a perfect match.

Biographical story of Mrs. Marie Anceney by her husband, Charles Anceney, reprinted from the Bozeman Avant-Courier of April, 1882. Article submitted by Smitty Overstree. If you want to read more about the Anceney family or the beginnings of the Flying D Ranch, you will find this information on pages 761-764 of Pioneer Trails and Trials.

Spot light on membership activities

This summer was a very good membership period for the MVHA thanks to two hard working members. Mary Ann Alger and her committee sent out letters to alumni of Ennis High School from classes up to about 1966 and Deb Townshend sent out letters to many folks in the upper Madison and West Fork area. These letters told recipients about the MVHA mission and invited them to membership and/ or to make donations. Response was good and we gained 34 new memberships as the result of their efforts. Thanks to these two members and thanks to all the folks who read their letters and came on board.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Memberships from July 14, 2005 to October 13, 2005
Student, Individual, Business, Patron**

All addresses for Ennis, MT unless otherwise indicated.

**Note: Please save this list for future reference and place it with the
July 13, 2005 list from your July issue**

Anderson, Betty L. (I)	1816 Hauser Blvd, Apt.1, Helena, Mt. 59601	
Bausch, David & Bonnie (F)	P.O. Box 1372	682-7724
Beimel, George & Sibelle (F)	38 Buffalo Lance Rd, Cameron, MT 59720	
Boyer, Carol L. (Piper) (I)	3295 Granger Ave. E. Apt 1, Billings, Mt. 59102	656-8648
Brownell, Harriet (I)	2116 Wyoming Ave, Billings, MT. 59102	
Clark, Jerry & Holly (F)	P.O. Box 582	
Davis, Carlene (Holt) (I)	P.O. Box 814, Dillon, MT 59725	
Dringle, Bill& Karen (F)	P.O. Box 925	682-7489
Falat, John(B)	185 Bass Point Rd Nahant, MA 01908	(781)581-5108
Frisbie, Dennis & Willie(F)	2665 West 5th. St. Sheridan,Wyo. 82801	
Goodrich, Elsie& Judy(F)	2031 Lonina Ave Long Beach, CA 90815-3215	
Haak, Ruth (I)	844 Hwy 87N, #26, Cameron, MT. 59720	682-7592
Hautier, M. Kay (I)	5712 Washington Blvd # 4 Arlington, VA 22205	
Hendricks, Myrtle(I)	P.O. Box 173 Bonaparte,IA 52520	(319)592-3194
Labrum, Terry(I)	2165 Aerie Heights Cove Sandy,UT 84092	
Laszlo, Andy& Ann(B)	Granger Ranches,P.O. Box 691	682-4814
LaVeau, Kathleen&Phillip(F)	P.O. Box 233, Cameron, MT 59720	
Lay, Edna M. (I)	410 East Granite Ave, Bozeman, MT 59718	
Love, Roy (I)	1241 N 7100E Huntsville,UT 84317	(801)745-9489
Matzick, Dean& Bonnie (F)	P.O. Box 242	682-4301
McDonald, Mae (i)	P.O. Box 998, Three Forks, MT 59752	285-6574
McDonnell, Mary Ann (i)	1685 Dammeron Valley Dr. E, Dammeron,UT 84783	
McDonnell, Robert F. (I)	1483 Beaverhead Rd Helena,MT 59602	442-1508
Miller, Lois (I)	801 Dakota St. Belgrade, MT. 59714-4414	
Moss, Linda(Armstrong)((I) 18376	Sioux Vista Dr. Jordan, Mn. 55352	(965)877-2935
Northway, Bill & Lorryne(F)	3239 Epic Ave. Reno, NV. 89512	(775)673-5748
Paige, Ruth H. (I)	1817 Thomas Ave. Butte, MT. 59701	723-7879

Pasley, W. Al (P)	11429 E. LeMarche Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85255	
Poole, Bill & Ingrid (F)	P.O. Box 293, Cameron, MT 59720	682-7912
Rice, Ron (I)	P.O. Box 1116	(406)570-1856
	3	
Roath, Pat (I)	108 7th. St., Belgrade, MT 59714	
Schendel, Wilson & Joy (Bates) (F)	1452 S. Ellsworth Rd #3086	(480)984-0439
	Mesa, AZ. 85208	
Scully, John (P)	P.O. Box 986	
Segota, Dan & Virginia (F)	P.O. Box 302	682-4361
Smith, Marina (I)	1112 Hwy. 287 N, Cameron, MT 59720	
Sprout, E. Vincent (I)	207 N. Oak Street, Townsend, MT 59644	
Stabler, Laird & Tricia (F)	1264 Hwy 287 N, Cameron, MT 59720	
Stokes, Ken & Kristin (F)	4400 Kings Canyon Rd	(775)246-3483
	Carson City, NV 89703	
Storey, Dale & Billie (F)	1764 S. Wilson St.	472-2933
	Casper, WY 82601	
Van Houten, Marion (I)	243 Cornell Ave, Rexburg, ID 83440	
Wruck, Henry (I)	P.O. Box 965	287-3127
	Whitehall, MT 59759-0965	

This space intentionally left blank. This is your membership list and you may separate it from your newsletter and use it as you need it.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Indian Trails and Grizzly Tales by Bud Cheff, Sr.
An interesting book with short chapters which makes it an easier read.

Another one worth looking at: Photographing Montana 1894-1928 The Life and Work of Evelyn Cameron by Donna M. Lacey. Evelyn Cameron's work portrays vast landscapes, range horses, cattle roundups, farmer's fields, and the people and wildlife of the plains.

The editor needs titles of good books pertaining to frontier history or early Montana or Madison Valley History. We want to list these so others can do some good reading of books recommended by others of like interests.

Looking ahead

MVHA goes back to "fall back" time for the Nov. meeting which will be held on **Nov. 10, 2005 at 4:00** at the VFW hall. The program is to be announced. The Dec. meeting will be held **Dec.8, at 4:00** at the VFW hall with a Christmas theme. If any member has a good suggestion for a program or would like to hear or have a study of a particular historical event, just let Smitty Overstreet or one of the board members know and we will work something up.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be January 2006 .

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Devona Owens
Charles Anceney from a
1882 article submitted by
Smitty Overstreet

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 4 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2006

From the Wagon Seat: Happy, healthy 2006 to everyone. As the new year begins, we need to finish up some items left over from 2005. We have given our 501c3 number to the Vujovichs in hopes of the land donation being approved by the county and city planning boards. We want to get this land item finished and start on our museum project in 2006. We need to find the right rock for mounting our Grandma Ennis park sign. The Jimmy Spray book is being typed and will be ready for sale in 2006. We still need to develop a logo for the MVHA. This is a good opportunity for a creative member to step forward and help out with an idea or two. During 2005 we sponsored some really good field trips what were well attended. We will continue the Churches of the Madison Valley field trips and will visit other nearby history museums. If you have suggestions for field trips, be sure to let a board member know. Since we do not have a space for a temporary museum for next summer, be on the look out for something that would be reasonable for the MVHA to use.

As we proceed on in 2006, we need to be thinking about the kind of building that would be the best for our proposed museum, about monthly programs which we will continue, about the election of board members and annual meeting in May, and about fundraising projects. We are going to need some brand new ideas!! We will continue to do the oral histories, float in 4th of July parade, Old Time Social, history of Ennis tours, and other projects in which we can participate. Neil Kent, treasurer, along with the board are working on the 5 year review that the IRS needs for all 501c3 organizations.

Remember that the 2006 memberships are now due starting in January and continuing throughout the year depending on when you originally joined. Please continue your support. Also keep in mind that we are a 501c3 organization for your tax purposes. Please attend meetings if you live in or visit our area, listen to our speakers, learn some history, give us some of your ideas, plan to serve on the board and help to preserve the history of the Madison Valley. Remember, we must preserve our history or lose it. Larry Love, Wagon Master

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History Tidbit During the 1930's and 1940's, there was a man in Ennis who was the brother of Harry Baker who ran the Ennis Cafe. This man was known as a regular town fixture by just about everyone in the Madison Valley.

Jesso, as he was known, always met the mail when it came into Ennis. There was a platform in front of the Post Office where the mail carrier would throw the mail bags and Jesso would take them into the Post Office.

The mail carrier truck was actually a bus that carried passengers in the front and mail in the back. People could ride to any of the towns between Ennis, Norris, Harrison, Whitehall and Butte.

If you have a story about Jesso or early mail delivery in the Madison Valley, turn it into the Wagon Tongue editor.

Membership dues are now due for the 2006 year. Our Membership year runs from January to December. If you just purchased a membership near the end of 2005 as many of our new members did, you do not need to purchase a new membership until a year has gone by. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter or a membership, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy of the Wagon Tongue and membership application will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

+++++
Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Memberships since October 2005 Please add these names to your membership lists found in the July and October issues of WT. Addresses are for Ennis unless indicated.

Thank you for renewing:

Black, Don (I)

909 Ave. E. N. W.
Great Falls, Mt. 59494
(406)453-4719

Gleason, Ruby & Larry(F)

P.O. Box 57
682-4324

Hayes, Joyce & Bill (F)

P.O. Box 1427
682-3900

O'Neel, Jack & Ginny(F)

P.O. Box 1466
Borrego Springs, CA 92004
760-767-3976

Pasley, Hal & Lucy (I)

P.O. Box 644
682-4268

Sonderer, Luci L. (I)

P.O. Box 30
682-4787

Todd, Zoe (I)

P.O. Box 531
682-4360

Thibodeaux, Vern & Donald (F)

14 Fish Hatchery Rd. D. #17
682-5724

Yoder, Glen & Judy(Angle) (F)

P.O. Box 17269
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269

Thanks for your Membership

Aaberg, Jon T F)

4511 35th Ave. SW #206
Seattle, WA 9812

Adam, Hollie F.(I)

8462 E. Amethyst Pl
Tucson, AZ. 85750

+++++

Angle, Frances & Donald(F)

1402 S. Mildred #610
Tacoma, WA 98465

Card, Kenneth B.(I)

1612 S. Tracy Ave. #10
Bozeman, Mt. 59715-5767

Carkeek, Raymond (I)

3061 Annie Street
Bozeman, MT 59718

586-6666

Fossel, Dottie & Jon(P)

P.O. Box 974
682-5073

Johnson, Ellen (I)

1300 Boyce Dr. E.
Mobile, Al 36695-7614

Hoag, Manny(I)

3207 3A St. NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

Reintz, Elso (I)

81 Jeffers Rd
682-4380

Ren, Sue (i)

5032 Hw 287 N 682-7345

Robinson, Kate & Max (F)

P.O. Box 82
McAllister, MT 59730 682-4412

Smith, Jean Dees (I)

258 Concord Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464

Stalcup, Jerry & Marion(F)

3605 Cedar Glen Way,Anacortes, WA 98221

Storer, Wayne L.(I)

106 Timberlake Terrace Apt. 11
Stephens City, VA 22655

Windecker, Clyde(I)

9 Stockade Rd.
Absarokee, MT. 59001-6226

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Please notify the editor if any names, addresses and phone # are incorrect. She and the PostOffice will greatly appreciate it!!

This space intentionally left blank as it is the back of your membership application.

McAllister Church History

(Reference "Church record of the Meadow Creek M. E. Church including the Upper Madison")

In the fall of 1869 Rev. George Comfort preached the first sermon on Meadow Creek in the home of Don O. Spaulding. (Meadow Creek was the earliest name of the McAllister locality)

Circuit riders F. A. Riffin and W. W. VanOrsel succeeded. In 1893 they reported the attendance at Meadow Creek as ranging from twenty-five to thirty-five persons. (from Plains, Peaks, and Pioneers, by Edward Laird Mills, cw1947)) The first Sunday School was organized about this time. First name on the church roll was Sanform Shingleton 1873--received by Van Orsdel.

There appears to be a gap in the records from 1873 to about 1887, (perhaps there was one earlier record book) for when R. M. Craven started the record of pastors he left seven blank lines for the pastors, prededing him. Rev. W.W. Shannor received Charles B. Gordon in 1877 and S. D. Pickney in 1879, and Rev. W. E. King received Clyde Pickney in 1885, (who trained for the ministry at Montana Wesleyan College at Helena, but never preached. Quote-C. L. Olive) In 1884 Rev. King Blanche, Ellen and Samuel Fletcher, also a Mrs. P.V. Jackson of Sterling (no date given). The register off the 50th. anniversary of the dedication of the church in 1937 shows a notation by the grandson of W. E. King stating that he was pastor of the church in 1882. (Rev. C. R. Donaldson, Idaho Falls)

The fly leaf of the church record of Meadow Creek M. E. Church states the church was built in 1884 during W. E. Kings pastorate. . The deed for the property is dated 1885-by it 16 acres of land were given by Eli and Julia Allen to the M. E. Church for the purpose of having a place for divine worship.

I am indebted to Clarence Oliver whose father James F. Oliver was a steward of the church from 1893 to 1897, for the following information about the building of the church. Mr. Oliver, Mr. John Ormiston, and a Mr. S. D. Pickney were among the builders who donated their labor. Lumber was obtained from the Higbee and Hawkind Mill on S. Meadow Creek. Another son of the Oliver family, John, served as local preacher in 1892-also as steward and trustee. He and Samuel Fletcher had studied at the Wesleyan College at Helena. Many ministers found a welcome at the Oliver home when they gathered to hold revivals or other meetings. Among them were George D. King, W.W. Van Orsdel, and S. A. Oliver (not related to James Oliver). Of the latter, Mr. Oliver relates this amusing anecdote. S. A. Oliver drove his horses hard, and on one occasion, a horse dropped dead in the harness at the old Indian Race Track on the Virginia City hill, and Rev. Oliver, who was a large man about 6'2" tall, hitched himself with the remaining

horse to the buggy and arrived at the Oliver's home about dinner time where they helped to unhitch him amid much laughter and joking.

The church was dedicated in August 1887. R. M. Craven is listed as the supply pastor from December 1887 to July 1888, followed by S. A. Oliver, who served five years.

The parsonage was built in 1888 or 1894 while S.A. Oliver was pastor. Both dates are given on the record book flyleaf. James Oliver helped build it. Besides a roomy house, there were 15 acres of good land where the preacher could keep his horses, a few cows, pigs, chickens, etc. In the horse and buggy days, this was centrally located between Norris and Ennis so both these places were served along with the McAllister area. One minister reported after many years of serving at various points over the state of Montana, that he had the best living here at McAllister since the income from the acreage had amounted to so much. At Ennis and McAllister both, of members received through the years, the record book shows that 52 were taken in between 1885 and 1900. Between 1900-1910, 40; 1911 to 1920 included 39; from 1921-1930, 22; 1931-1940, 23; 1941-42 6 besides Miss Gertrude Smith, a supply pastor here less than 3 months. Rev. Ralph Carleton who served McAllister-Norris from Three Forks took in the largest number (35) between 1929 and 1932-13 on confession of faith. On February 7, 1930 he baptized 14 adults.

Mrs. Mary R. Lindsey who summarized the facts from the McAllister-Ennis Record concluded that there were 45 members of the combined McAllister-Ennis churches in 1949 including some inactive members.

At sometime around 1928-29, the District Superintendent, Jesse Lacklen took it upon himself to see the McAllister parsonage and the 15 acres of land for the sum of \$500, and purchase a very small house in Ennis to have for a parsonage. No local vote was taken at McAllister nor were the trustees consulted. This great loss has long been the source of great bitterness at McAllister, and may well have done much to harm church progress here. The sale of this land even left the community with no right of way to the cemetery. Finally due to the pressure applied by Mr. L. E. Megee and Mr. J. A. McAllister, and others on the D. S. in 1939, the Methodist Conference paid \$50 for the right of way to the cemetery which was bought from Mr. Roy Edwards, the owner of the former parsonage. For 10 years there had been no legal road to the cemetery.

continued on page 4)

McAllister Church Continued from p. 3

placing a linoleum on the floor; keeping up the fire insurance for six years, from 1949-55; replacing the chairs in 1934 ; painting the interior in 1944 among minor repairs and an annual cleaning. The kitchen was the meeting place for the club.

During the 1940's and early 1950's, when even the minister did not come oftener than once in two weeks, a faithful few kept Sunday Schools going very regularly.

A major change came in the years 1952-54 when the Methodist Conference exchanged this property for a Presbyterian Church at Toston, Mt., so that church then became Methodist and the McAllister and Ennis church became Presbyterian. As this had been an old Methodist stronghold for all the previous years, this caused consternation in the membership. But there was nothing to be done but to accept the change with all the possible grace. The first two Presbyterian ministers who came had to serve a fourpoint parish as the Madison Valley Larger Parish was comprised of Ennis, McAllister, Harrison and Pony, each having a service every Sunday. This continued for six years and the ministers may have felt overburdened. Once each quarter a congregational meeting and dinner was held at one of the four churches. These were often attended by about a hundred people. Time went on and as the attendance shrank at McAllister, the young minister in 1963 decided to quit serving this community and requested that all attend in Ennis. A new church was built then and dedicated in 1965. Since that time a small number of weddings and funerals have been held in the McAllister church. When the community hall went into private ownership in 1971, the 4-H Club needed a meeting place, so they began to use the church. The building was painted in 1971 by a youth group from St. Louis. The roof had already started leaking. In 1976 as a bicentennial project, sufficient donations were procured to hire a carpenter to put on a new roof. In recent summers some services and picnics have been held at the church. Since the McAllister church was dedicated in 1887, the Centennial year was 1987.

By Rose Megee

This article is a continuation of our Missionaries in the Madison Valley series.

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From the Mail Box In the last issue, Frank Vetter requested information about the Varney area. Phylis Smith provided this for us.

The Economy Power plant at Blaine Spring.

In the late 1890's, Henry Elling hired a surveyor from Dillon to study Blaine Spring near Varney as a

possible site to build a hydroelectric plant for his Easton and Pacific mines as well as light for Virginia City. Elling wasn't pleased with the steam plant at the Easton mine; it was expensive to run and it often broke down.

After Elling died in 1900, the project languished during period of lawsuits and rumors. In 1908, however, Elling's son Karl returned from New York City to live in Virginia City. He wanted to carry out his father's plans for Blaine Spring. He ordered the plant to be finished and buildings for the workers to be completed. Carpenter, father and son, with the same name, William P. Clark, supervised the construction. A huge waterwheel started operating, and men ran power lines toward the mines and Virginia City. In town, Elling men wired businesses and home in anticipation of the great day.

Superintendent John Henry Pankey called the plant the Economy Power and Light Company. Although the *Madisonian* announced in May 1908, "Virginia City was to be furnished with electricity for the first time in history," it would not be until Sunday, Nov. 9 that the Virginia City lights went on. The *Madisonian* headlined its article "Out of Darkness" and noted there was talk of lighting up the baseball field for night games with Ennis, Sheridan and Twin Bridges. Paul Daems managed the Economy plant for some years; Albert Foreman worked there for a time.

William Siprelle became the man of many jobs for the Economy Power Plant. He saw to the placing and repair of lines to the Easton and Pacific mines as well as to Virginia City. In addition to maintenance duties, Siprelle read the power meters; during the winter, he traveled from meter to meter on horseback; during the summer, he drove a Model T Ford to check on the lines. Bill was so enchanted with the possibilities of electricity that he bought the first radio to Virginia City, and also the first electric clothes washer.

Late in 1908, the elegant courthouse in Virginia City was finally wired for electricity. By March e, monthly payment of \$87.72 was sent to the Economy Power Company. It was not until 1932 that the Montana Power Company absorbed the Economy firm and extended its power line to Virginia City. (by Phyllis Smith)

Phyllis Smith's seventh book, Montana's Madison County, is due out the summer of 2006. This article on the Economy Power Plant at Blaine Spring comes from that soon to be published book.

The Mail Box welcomes letters or questions about items of historical significance. We still need info on the "wild cat oilman" Andy Jones

Wall Creek Ranger Station by Gary Forney

The Wall Creek Ranger District was among the first to be created when the Madison National Forest was established in 1902. Nearby was once a reservoir built by William John Ennis on Ruby Creek in 1906, and the postal station of "Abe".

This beautiful 186 acre location was selected in 1921, and development of the site began later in 1922, with the construction of the one and half story log cabin; formally identified by administration description as an "R-3 dwelling with a front porch." This building was the designated headquarters of the District, and utilized as both home and office for the assigned ranger. Frank Riggleman was the ranger who supervised the construction and first lived in the cabin. A small barn and hay shed were ancillary to the main cabin.

In 1932, several improvement were made to the headquarters site. A new (and larger) barn was built, flagstone walkways added, and a log construction garage (later removed) and a log office/crew bunkhouse building were added to the property site. These developments were made principally as a result of unemployment relief funding programs. Indoor plumbing was included in the office and main cabin by this time.

With the consolidation of the Forest Service management in 1946, the Wall Creek Station was relegated to a seasonal- use facility. In the summer of 1946, Cap Overstreet and his bride, P.J. ("Smitty"), became the first non-Forest Service residents of the Station as manages of the Wall Creek Stock Association.

Gary Forney is a local historian, speaker , author of many articles about Madison Valley History and author of the book Thomas Francis Meager: Irish Rebel, American Yankee, Montana Pioneer.

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From the May 15, 1931 *Madisonian*
Because we meet monthly at the VFW hall this article will be interesting

Mrs. Kathryn Ennis donates Lot to VFW

Madison Valley, May 12--Mrs. Kathryn Ennis, who recently passed her 96th birthday, has donated a lot at the corner of First and Steffen Streets in Ennis to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sturdevant-Davis Post No. 1723. In appreciation of the gift, Mrs. Ennis was made an honorary member of the Post at their regular meeting Friday evening. On Sunday, Mother's Day she was remembered as mother of the Post with a bouquet of cut flowers and was also presented with an insignia by the Post.

It is the purpose of the Post to erect a club house on the lot in the near future, probably during the summer. Hugh Wakefield, Vic Anderson, Victor Clark, Oscar Edwards and L. G. Willis are

members of a committee chosen to get figures on the building, most of the work on which will be done by the veterans.

A committee of three, Alfred Powell, Fay Oswald and Oscar Edwards were appointed for the purpose of drawing plans for the club house, to be submitted to the Post for approval at their next regular meeting, Friday, June. 12.

Arrangements were made for a Flag Day dance to be given June 13 at the Nelson hall, proceeds from which will be added to their building fund.

At this meeting Jim Bogue was taken in as a new member of the Post, which is rapidly increasing in Membership, from one to four members having been added to same at each meeting since the first of January.

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From Prairie Poets

I long For Quiet Mountain Tops by **Roberta Carkeek Cheney**

I long for quiet mountain tops
or peaceful grassy, dell
To escape the frantic noises
of the city where I dwell.
A lonely, lovely ocean shore
where wind and waves roll in
Would soothe my tired, jangled nerves
by haste and strife worn thin.
Since mountain, field or shoreline
so seldom I attain,
I grasp precious, quiet moments
like sunshine after rain.
There's an early morning hour
when the family's sleeping still,
I look beyond the houses to a
nature-wooded hill.
I watch the city waking
as lights go on to say:
"Good Morning World,"
on this new minted day.
Here is a hold hour
to do with as I choose.
To think long thoughts or gayly toy
with my poetic muse.

+++++

Abe, MT Post Office served the homesteaders south of Ruby Creek on the west side of the Madison River. It was established in 1917 with Herbert H. Ashley as first postmaster. In 1939 the post office was discontinued. Before Abe was established, people got their mail from Cameron by star route. A cable was stretched across the river as a spot called "Power Site". The mail went across in a box, pulled by a rope to "Poverty Flats" so called by the settlers. (check page 3 to get a list of all the settlers in the area)

From Pioneer Trails and Trials by Winnifred Jeffers

For your reading Pleasure

The Flying D Ranch Lands of Montana by Phyllis Smith For those of you who want to read more on the history of the Flying D Ranch. This book is at the libraries in Ennis and Virginia City and for purchase at the Pioneer Museum and Country Book shelf in Bozeman.

A Decent and Orderly Lynching: The Montana Vigilantes by Frederick Allen This is book by our speaker for the January meeting. The author concludes that the vigilantes were justified in their early actions but he has uncovered evidence that the vigilantes refused to disband after territorial courts were in place. Available at Madison Valley Public Library

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Looking Ahead

February 9, 2006 4:00 pm Monthly meeting at VFW Hall Speaker George Beimel speaking on the Cliff Lake School and the bell which the MVHA recently acquired.

March 9., 2006 4:00 pm The Monthly meeting will be a birthday party for the founder of our town, William Ennis. Speaker will be Gary Forney. Location to be announced.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April 2006 .

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors: Rose Megee
Phyllis Smith
Gary Forney
Roberta Carkeek Cheney
Winnifred Jeffers

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by Madison Drilling and Pump Supply

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 4 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2006

From the Wagon Seat: Here we are in spring again and back to daylight savings time and 7:00pm meetings. Just a short recap of the MVHA first quarter of 2006. At the January meeting Larry Love filled in with a program about O.C. Whitney, early homesteader in the Valley as Mr. Allen was ill and unable to attend. The February meeting was about the Upper Madison area and the Cliff Lake School House and the birth and journey of the school house bell. This program was presented by Storrs Bishop and George Biemal. The bell has been donated to the MVHA and will be on display in the mini-museum this summer. March was Happy Birthday time for the founder of Ennis, Mr. William Ennis who was born on March 17, 1828. Thanks to Gary Forney for an interesting history of the life of Mr. Ennis. We had a nice turn out and a good cake. At this April meeting, a nominating committee will be appointed to select nominees for 3 positions on the board of directors. Fredrick Allen, author of *A Decent and Orderly Lynching*, is our speaker. May is the annual meeting with election of board of directors and approval of the budget. Summer meetings are field trips. The tours of local churches will continue, a trip up on the Upper Madison and Cliff Lake School area is planned and we are working on a third trip. We have found a temporary home for our museum items and can continue our interim mini-museum if the membership so decides. Your wagon master, Zoe Todd

History Tidbit *Barn dance Outstanding Affair* Outstanding among recent dances in the valley was the barn dance given Friday night at the Jumping Horse Ranch for the benefit of the Episcopal church at Jeffers. A record crowd enjoyed dancing until the wee small hours of the morning to excellent music by Jan Rich and her Troubadours of Butte....From *Madisonian*, Friday September 9, 1932

Corrections for Vol. 4, Issue 1, January 2006 issue: Wall Creek Ranger Station by Gary Forney Last paragraph, last sentence..” In the summer of 1948, Cap Overstreet and his bride, P.S. (“Smitty”), became the first non-Forest Service residents of the Station as **riders** of the Wall Creek Stock Association.”

Membership dues are now due for the 2006 year. Our Membership year runs from January to December. If you just purchased a membership near the end of 2005 as many of our new members did, you do not need to purchase a new membership until a year has gone by. If you have a friend or relative who would be interested in a newsletter or a membership, please give a MVHA board member their name and address and a copy of the Wagon Tongue and membership application will be sent. You may also share this newsletter and Application form if you wish. We are always welcoming interested persons to our organization.

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to membership Please add these names to your membership list.

Finley, Albert C. (I)
E. 2652 -40th
Spokane, WA 99223
(509)448-1719

Nelson, James H & Suzzane G (B)
P.O. Box 206 12 Bear Creek Rd. E.
Cameron, MT 59720
682-3492

Thompson, Otis & Jo
444 Mt. Hwy 287
Ennis, Mt. 59729
682-7415

Foreman, Robert (I)
586-9084
737 Aster Street
Bozeman, MT. 59718

Odden, Harry A. Jr. (I)
(W) 207 Mill St.
Sheridan, Mt. 59749
842-5410
(S) 1002 Lancaster Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99503-7034
(907)561-0326

Yeckel, Carl and Susan (F)
3900 Marquette St.
Dallas, TX 75225
(214)361-2007

From the Diary of Laurence Jeffers--1917
about the Gorge

Jan 24-South wind all day, thawed some. Gorge getting bad, nearly to Paps's home, Kennedy's home surrounded. Had to move. Made a levy along the ditch to keep water from the house.(Kennedy place just above Hubner's from the corner)

From the Mail Box

Margaret Ann(Olson)Crennen, MVHA member from Helena, wrote her memories of Jesso Baker. "I remember Jesso washing dishes at the Ennis Cafe. When I was a young girl, my Mom cooked for Ollie Baker during the summers. I used to like to go to the cafe to see my Mom and would play with my friend Teddy Bennetts, whose Mom, Eleanor, waited table there. We would walk by Jesso as we came in the back door. He would always be hurrying through the washing of dishes. He was always talking to himself, smoking a cigarette, and making lots of noise. During the summer before my senior year in high school, I waited table at the cafe and Jesso was still there washing dishes...still talking to himself and making lots of noise with the washing of pots and pans. I often wonder what Jesso would have been like if he had lived in today's world. Everyone in town knew him as a town character. As soon as he would get caught up with the dishes, he would take off his apron and be off and about town."

Thank you, Margaret Ann, for sharing. Are there any more Jesso Baker stories or stories of other old time Ennis folks?

Jan. 27-Above freezing nearly all day. A fierce south wind all day. About 12 men at Papa's all making a levy back of house to keep gorge away from the house.

Jan. 29--26° above. 16 men at Papa's today moving hay. Water no worse but seeping through levy back of house, gradually working toward hay stacks. Cellar full.

Jan 31--6° below. Water worse today. Wylie (Davis) had to move out. Water all around the house working towards corrals. A disagreeable month. (Davis is where Hubner's used to live just south of us)

Feb. 1-10° above. South wind. Mama and Papa moved out today. Put furniture on blocks. Brought cows up here (Jeffers)

continued on page 3

This space intentionally left blank as it is the back of the membership application which our members cut off and include with membership payment.

From the Diary of Laurence Jeffers continued from page 2

Feb. 2--Wylie's house and Kennedy's granary in water.

Feb. 4--Bert Michell afraid water will run him out; its up to the barn.

Feb. 21--Mr. Bird (Madison Power Claim agent) here.

(Note: when they moved the hay it was done by horse and wagons. Hay was put up loose)

Diary submitted by Shirley Jeffers Gustafson.

All items in () are added to the original diary for explanation.

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Trinity Episcopal Church History

(Trinity Episcopal Church was the third church visited on the *Missionaries of the Madison Valley* field trip.. summer of 2005. Plan to attend a field trip to be held during the summer of 2006 as MVHA continues the history of churches in Madison Valley.)

From the time when Bishop Daniel Sylvester Tuttle served the mining camps around Virginia City and rode over the hill to hold services in the agricultural Madison Valley to the present, most ministers have been scheduled to serve two or more congregations.

On August 8, 1877, Bishop Tuttle wrote to his wife:"I am much hurried today; in an hour Mr. Prout and I must be off to Madison Valley, twenty miles by horseback. We now hold services in the Grange Hall." Previous services had been held in the school house, which like the church later on, was built across the river because the saloons were there.

Bishop Tuttle found ten communicants in the Jeffers/Ennis area including the William Ennis and the Myron Jeffers families, the Switzers and the Longs, and he established a mission church for them in 1878.

The Grange Hall burned down in 1880 and a Community Hall was built near Jeffers. The ground floor was "fitted up" for church services and Sunday School. The upper floor was a community center and dance hall.

The establishment of the Madison Valley Mission (later to be called Holy Trinity and still later Trinity Episcopal Church) seemed to have sparked a religious awareness in the Valley. Or perhaps, it was the missionary zeal of Rev. E.G. Prout that accounted for fifty-seven baptisms in the Ennis/ Jeffers/Cameron area between 1878 and 1895.

The Rev. H. H. Prout who had lived in Virginia City and served Episcopal missions from 1871 to 1874 was succeeded by his son, E. Gregory Prout, who was to minister in Montana for sixteen years. Amos Storey with Church of England leanings had come

Continued next column

to America and Virginia City. He married Lily Randal, daughter of covered wagon pioneers and they homesteaded on Bear Creek. He was instrumental in establishing Christ Mission at Cameron. The names of Storey, Hartman, Gilmer, Sprague, McCoy, and Sam Smith began to appear along with the Switzers, Ennis, Longs, and Jeffers. Somehow Gregory Prout managed to minister to this ever growing, far-flung flock until early in 1890 when the Rev. R.P.Eubanks came to take over.

On August 2 of 1890, Mr. Eubanks met with 15 ladies and helped them organize the Trinity Guild. And for the next ninety years, that group continued to be active, a stable and consistent life-line for the needs of the church. Winifred Jeffers represents the third generation of her family to be members of the Guild. (Jane Jeffers Rybus is fourth generation in the Guild.)

The Rev. Northey Jones came in 1893. During the Rev. D. Holmes' 1894 to 1895 stay, he baptized 15 people. The Rev. J. J. Bowker came in 1895 and served the Virginia City/Jeffers area for 5 years. He baptized Leola Winifred Chowning on November 25, 1895.

An English couple, the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Dickey served the Madison Mission field from 1900 to 1901.

The Rev. Chales Quiney arrived in Virginia City in 1901 and was to serve until 1910. Under his guidance, plans were made for a church building. The frame church featuring vestibule and steeple was completed in 1902. A.W. Switzer, who had donated the land, was a carpenter and supervised the work. Much of it was volunteer. The round window in the west was a gift of the children of the Valley who contributed dimes and nickels as they earned them--because they wanted to be part of the new church. The center alter window was given as a memorial to Myron Jeffers by his 5 children.

The alter rail, two chancel chairs, a lectern, reader's desk and all the pews were given to Trinity by St. Paul's in Virginia City when the Elling Memorial Church was built there in the same year.

Along with the furniture came the historic cross that had been sent to Bishop Tuttle from St. Paul's Church in New York City. It was on the alter of that church when George Washing on worshipped there. It is now a Trinity Treasure.

Trinity's first full time resident minister was Rev. Thomas W. Bennett. A one-room cabin was built on the property next to the church. Trinity Guild proceeded to add another room and furnish the "Rectory".

Trinity Episcopal Church History is excerpted from the Trinity Church, Jeffers/Ennis and the Madison Missions Chapter of *The Episcopal Church in Montana* By Roberta Carkeek Cheney. This booklet is at the Madison Valley Library and contains more information on Trinity Episcopal Church.

Family History Center

The members of the MVHA are invited to use the Genealogy Library at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ennis. Hours are Wednesdays from 6-9pm, and Thursdays from 10am-4pm. Phone 682-4911 during the above hours or contact John Crumley, President, at 682-7364, Jynean Skank at 682-4440 or Jo Thompson at 682-7415 for more information. This library will be a good source of information for anyone tracing family histories.

Looking Ahead

The annual meeting of the MVHA will be held on May 11-time, place and program to be announced. Election of board members will be held and budget will be approved. June, July and August meetings will be field trips with dates and times to be announced. One trip will continue the Missionaries in Montana series with tours of local churches and a second will be a trip up to the Cliff Lake School location. Third is still in planning stages. Ideas for possible field trips are welcomed.

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For Your Reading Pleasure

Adventure Trails in Montana by John Willard No one has roamed the Big Sky Country more gregariously, with greater observation and appreciation than John Willard
Names on the Face of Montana The Story of Montana's Place Names by Roberta Carkeek Cheney. Toss this book into your car during your summer travels in Montana and as you pass through each town, look it up and learn a little history. Both books are available at the Madison Valley Public Library.

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Madison Valley History Assoc, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
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Vice President: Jim Carlson
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Contributing editors: Shirley Gustafson
Roberta Carkeek Cheney

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this newsletter is generously donated by First Madison Valley Bank.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 4 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2006

From the Wagon Seat The fourth of July has come and gone. We hope that everyone's summer is going along just great. Some exciting things have happened for the MVHA. As of May, the MVHA has the deed to 22.6 acres of land. It is located about 4 miles out of town on the road to Virginia City. A big thank you to the generous person who donated the land. It is a gift that will be noted by future generations in the Madison Valley. The board has hired an architect and will present the first sketch of a museum plan at our potluck dinner in July. We now need to think of some serious fundraising. Come forward with your ideas.

Thanks to Gail Cole, Smitty Overstreet, Jane Rybus and Neil Kent who have been working diligently on editing the Jimmy Spray book, Early Days in the Madison Valley. Gail has done all the typing as well as taking all the committee suggestions to the printers. We will have them printed and for sale by the end of July. Plan on buying your copy right away.

The MVHA float took 1st. place in the local entry category of the parade again this year. Thanks to Kid Neville for getting the wagon, Rollie Hebel for donating the use of the wagon, Darlene Neville Rochez of La Vegas, Nevada and Ennis for her creative ideas, Judy Angle Yoder of Fountain Hills, Arizona for her flaming campfire, Harold White for driving the 4 wheeler, and Shirley Love for making the signs. And thanks to Robert Frazier of the Corp of Discovery (Larry Love) for being on the float. Horses and wagon are already reserved for next year!!

MVHA now has a logo design which will be shown at the potluck picnic. It is designed by our member, John Falat of Nahant, Massachusetts.

Our new temporary museum location is great. It is in the two rooms in the front of the Wildlife Museum at 121 W. Main Street. We have an average of 2 to 4 people per day and sometimes a lot more who visit our museum and then go into the Wildlife Museum. We need volunteers to work a shift or two to help keep the museums open on a daily basis. It is very interesting to talk to the people who visit the museums and while you are there take time to read about the history of the Madison Valley. Please sign up as we need your help. Zoe Todd (682-4360(H)682-7880(W) has the schedule calendar and she will be very happy to hear from you!!

MVHA Volunteers are participating in an archaeological study at the Ruby Creek Battle site. Those of you who have signed up should have heard from Mark Sant by now for details. The project is scheduled for August 7 through August 11.

Our August meeting will be a field trip with Storrs Bishop and George Beimel to the Olaf Ranch and the Cliff Lake School house area. September is a tentative field trip to Silver Star and the mining display there. Watch for dates and times. We need your ideas for programs and field trips for the coming year. Your Board is running out of ideas and we need your help!

The MVHA will succeed in having a museum for the Ennis and the Madison Valley if we all pitch in and help. It will be our legacy to the future generations of what has been. To borrow a phrase from Captain Lewis, "Let us proceed on." Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

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Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to membership

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682-7392

Miller, Linda and Ed (F)
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Cameron, MT. 59720
682-5548

Skank, Jynean (I)
P.O. Box 66
McAllister, MT. 59740
682-4440

LUMBER INDUSTRY GREAT RESOURCE OF OLD MADISON

Madison River Lumber Company Taps Virgin Forests from the *Madisonian*, Sept. 19, 1913

Lumbering is one of the important and growing industries of Montana, the state now producing nearly \$5,000,000 worth each year. Although the industry thrived in a primitive way since the first settlers arrived in Madison county, as a commercial enterprise the selling of lumber has not been carried on extensively. There are millions of feet of saw logs in the county, and two immense forest reserves--the Madison and the Gallatin--are under government control and plans are being perfected for the sale of logs annually to use up the surplus

supply, while at the same time conserving one of the most generously timbered tracts in the entire state.

Madison county has a land area of 2,931,840 acres, of which 839,234 acres are within the two forest reserves. The timber is varied in species, and much of it will prove merchantable. Birch and pine abound, and this stumpage is particularly valuable.

Up to a few months ago it was not suppose to be possible to float logs from the upper Madison down that stream, owing to the turbulent current and rocky bed of the stream. Recently, however, the Madison River Lumber Company was organized, with William Wilcox as manager, stumpage was purchased of the government, and a lumber mill is almost completed near the Varney Bridge. No county in the state is more blessed with water power than ours, which will prove a valuable adjunct in putting the products of the forests upon the market. And while the plant of the Madison River company is just entering upon the field, there is no doubt that its activities will expand from year to year, making the industry an important one so far as this section of the state is concerned.

William Wilcox, manager of the company, was in the city Saturday endeavoring to secure help to assist in erecting the large sawmill which is being built near the Varney Bridge. Mr. Wilcox has experienced a great deal of difficulty in his efforts to secure skilled labor, and has made numerous trips to Virginia City, Butte, Helena and other cities for the purpose of getting the required number of men wanted to complete the job in the shortest time possible. However he has been successful and the erection of the mill will soon be completed, and within a short time will be turning out lumber at a high rate of speed.

Mr. Wilcox has performed a task which for many years has been ridiculed and deemed by many impossible, that of floating 1,000,000 feet of logs down the Madison River, a distance of 55 miles to the present site of the sawmill. He states that this is the first river in the country that had not a dollar of expenditure before the drive was started, and the logs were landed at their destination without an accident of any nature.

The most skillful of lumberjacks were imported for the arduous drove, some of the best coming from New York state, lumberjacks who had spent the greater portion of their lives shooting the rapids of the St. Lawrence river, on the Canadian border.

As usual, in such cases, Mr. Wilcox was forced to contend with any number of obstacles, such as suppression of the stealing of the floating logs from the river, the constant changing of the crews, the overcoming the difficulties which had arisen between the company and those who had opposed the undertaking from the beginning, but by perseverance, hard work and good (continued on page 3)

Lumber Industry continued from page 2

management he had the satisfaction of seeing the floating forest safely anchored at the big dam a short distance below the Varney Bridge.

A crew of from 25 to 40 has ben employed on the work for many months, and when the mill is finished an additional force will be added to the present number and by the time the snow falls the big consignment of logs will have been transferred into the finest kind of lumber, which has already been contracted for.

The log drove was a most successful one. Mr. Wilcox is an experienced man in this line, having followed the business for years and from the beginning to end there is not a branch of the industry that he does not thoroughly understand. He supervised the entire work and when occasion demanded was in the midst of the big crew up to his waist in water assisting in breaking a jam or piloting the logs through the rapids.

A log boom, 900 feet in length was constructed near the bridge and the floating logs drifting along the swift current followed the boom line to their final destination.

The company has a model lumber camp. Eating quarters, sleeping tents, commissary department and everything that goes for a first class camp has been provided for the comfort of the employees.

Mr. Wilcox has kindly provided the Madisonian with a few photographs which are shown in this issue, and a more detailed account of the big sawmill will be published in the near future in this newspaper.

(Editor's note: The pictures on the reprint from which this article was taken are not reproducible. Does anyone have pictures of this lumber operation that we can attempt to print in the Wagon Tongue? Does anyone have the more detailed account of the sawmill which can be printed in the Wagon Tongue?)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS sponsored by the Virginia City Preservation Alliance

It is not too late to attend the Wednesday night programs in Virginia City. All programs begin at 6:30p.m. in the basement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. There is no cost to attend any program. Although 5 programs have already been held you can still attend the following:

- July 12 "Montana's Fur Trade Era" Ron Rockwell
- July 19 "An Old-Time Fashion Show/Historic Clothing" Toni James and Sharon Brown
- July 26 "James Page: Andersonville Survivor and Montana Pioneer" M. Mark Miller
- August 2 "Spirit Tailings: Ghosts of Montana" Ellen Baumler
- August 9 Montana Heritage Commission Update Jeff Tiberi
- August 16 "Guns of the Vigilantes" Jerry Nyhart **3**

From The Mail Box

Frank Vetter, MVHA member from Bellevue, WA wrote of his memories of Jesso Baker. "The letter from Margaret Ann(Olson) Crennen brought back many memories of Jesso Baker. He was a hard worker in spite of his handicap, and performed many tasks around town in addition to his full time dish washing job. Among other things, he was a member of the Ennis Volunteer Fire Department, which is the subject of my favorite memory of Jesso.

A fire broke out at the high school gymnasium in Virginia City, and was well involved by the time it was discovered. The small fire department in Virginia City didn't have a chance of bringing it under control, so they sent for help from Ennis, Sheridan, and Twin Bridges. Ennis was the first to arrive on the scene. Jesso jumped down from the truck, took one look, and said, "We can save that!" Within about 20 minutes, the fire was well under control." Thank you, Frank for sharing you memory. The Wagon Tongue welcomes letters from anyone on any subject of historical interest in the Madison Valley.

THE NEWS OF ENNIS

Lively Happenings of the Prosperous Burg on the Central Madison Valley

NOTES OF REAL INTEREST

Something Going on All of the Time, What The Citizens of The Town Are Doing Where They Are Going And How They Are Prospering Nowadays.

Ennis, June 21.--Wallace W. Green transferred the early part of the week his residence property on the south side of Main street to Lawrence Dunn.Mr. Dunn is to be given possession of the property soon or at such time as Mr. Green can move his family to the town of Yellowstone where he contemplates residing for the next three months, where he will conduct his automobile business to and from the Hebgen dam. While we regret the departure of Mr. Green and his estimable family for even the short time, the best wishes of our community for their success and happiness go with them in their new venture.

New Machine in Town

The new seven passenger model "W" 60 horse power Pope-Hartford of the Nelson Bros. arrived Saturday and since has been the envy of all automobile enthusiasts. The machine is complete in every detail: roomy tonneau, boot mats and rails, thick cushioned seats, and in fact everything pertaining to the comfort of passengers. The auto will be used for passenger service and in connection with the Nelson Bros. barn.

(News of Ennis to be continued in future issues) excerpted from *The Madisonian*, June 22, 1911

For your reading Pleasure

Most books featured here are non fiction and are historical accounts of Western History. Some of you like to read fiction so check out ***Exile*** by **Richard S. Wheeler**. This is biographical fiction of Thomas Francis Meagher, acting governor of the Montana Territory. This book is available for check out at the Madison Valley Public Library.

Montana's Madison Country: A History by **Phyllis Smith** Just off the presses and available for purchase. Author is a MVHA member and the MVHA has a copy at the museum for you to look at.

Looking Ahead

August, 2006 Date and time to be announced. This will be a field trip to Cliff Lake School House location and the Olaf ranch area lead by George Beimel and Storrs Bishop. Watch for notice in *Madisonian* and you will be called by calling committee.

September, 2006 Date and time to be announced. Field trip to Silver Star to visit the mining display. Lead by Neil Kent

October 12, 2006 Regular scheduled meeting 7:00 VFW program to be announced.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch *Madisonian* for details of time and place and program.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2006 .

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing Editor: Sue Ren reprint copies of Sept, 19, 1913 and June 22, 1911 *Madisonian*

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 4 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2006

From the Wagon Seat: Summer is over, nights are cooler, elk are bugling, the colors are gorgeous and fall is here. This has been a great summer for the MVHA. We have had some great programs and field trips. In June we continued our Missionaries in the Madison Valley. We first went to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and toured the Family History Center. Remember, all MVHA members are invited to do any of their genealogical research at the center. From there we went to the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, hosted by Marcella Tart and the Assembly of God Church, hosted by pastor, Terry Warnake. We learned the interesting histories of these churches. In July we had a potluck picnic at Lions Park. Great food and social. In August Storrs Bishop and George Beigel were our field trip leaders and took us to Lyons Bridge, the old Kirby Place, Cliff Lake School House, Monta Neely place and the Olliffe homestead. This trip was fantastic and the group learned much Madison Valley History. In addition to our able leaders, many MVHA members shed light on these historic places as well. We thank everyone who organized these activities and trips, who lead them and made all the arrangements and to everyone who came. We need to have suggestions for programs during regular meetings and field trips for next summer. Plan to attend all meetings and next summer's trips and don't miss out.

Our archaeology dig was a great experience and the group did find three lead balls. One was flattened as if it had hit a rock. These were all good finds and have been recorded. Hopefully these finds will shed light on the Ruby Creek Battle Site. MVHA will be working on this project again next summer. 15 MVHA members participated.

Our new museum at 121 W Main has been visited by interested people from all over the world. We have had a lot of compliments on our displays. If you have not visited, come in and see it sometime. We are open on Thurs. Fri. and Sat. for the month of October and then will close for the season. We are planning the Old Time Social and open house at the Museum on Oct. 29th from 1:00 to 4:00. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Work is continuing on our future museum. There is a committee headed by Bob Bayley to study putting the museum on the 22.6 acres of land 4 miles out of Ennis on the Virginia City Road. There are members still interested in looking into in town sites and keeping the museum in town. We need a chairman to head up that project. Interested members are needed for both of these committees so sign up soon!! The board is anxious for these two committees to fact find and put their findings on the table. As Lewis and Clark said "Let us Proceed On". We need to preserve the past for the future.

Your Wagon Master: Larry Love

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Save the Old Catholic Church The Madison Valley History Association has been offered the old Catholic Church on Williams St. We know it was built in about 1925 by L. J. Baker and used as a Catholic church. When the Catholic community moved to their new church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints used the building for a period to time. The MVHA has been advised that the building can be moved and we have obtained a bid to move it and it can be placed on the 22.6 acres of MVHA land. We now need to determine if there is enough interest and community support to save this church. We will need funds to help pay for moving and restoring it. We need a commitment of funds and man power to work on restoring this building.

Are there enough memories of this old church that you would like to save? It will be restored as a church and hopefully historic memorabilia from both the Catholic church and the Church of Jesus Christ or Latter Day Saints can be displayed there. Send inquiries and/or donations to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729 or call Zoe Todd at 682-4360 or 7880 or Larry Love at 682-5780.

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to membership Please add these members to any membership list you might be keeping

Beverly Whitman (I)
P.O. Box 115
Ennis, Mt. 59729
682-3506

Clarice Wonder Brooks (I)
P.O. Box 132
Columbia Falls, Mt. 59912
892-3336

This is the first issue of the *Wagon Tongue* since the loss of our Red Bluff Stone House. This issue will be published in memory of the Stone House and the following article was submitted for this memory.

An Obit for the Red Bluff Stage Stop and Hotel by Dr. Jeff Stafford

I knew I had to contribute the following after talking with the State Deputy Fire Marshal on Saturday, July 15th, the morning after fire destroyed the historic Red Bluff Stage Stop and Hotel. Alerted to my presence by Pete Olind, Superintendent for MSU's Agricultural Research Station, the fire marshal informed me that he was already familiar with the structure's history. It was, he said, built in 1886 as a stage stop between Bozeman and Virginia City. That distressed me, as his understanding was just on more reiteration of misinformation that has accompanied the Stone House's history from almost the beginning. So I am going to offer here a more reliable time-line of the structure's history, along with a few anecdotes that highlight the "old lady's" 139 years.

First, let's understand why the structure was significant. Built in 1867 as a residence and office for James Isaacs, field representative for McAndrew & Wann, wealthy New York City merchants, its durability made it one of the best-preserved stone structures illustrative of Montana Territory's very earliest gold mining history. After all, the largest placer gold strike ever made in American history had taken place in Alder Gulch only four years previous. In addition, the stone building was architecturally significant as one of only a handful of still-existing Montana examples of the Greek Revival period. Isaacs, a New York builder prior to contracting with McAndrew & Wann, clearly chose that style from his urban East Coast construction experience, even though the Greek Revival Period had peaked in the 1840s and '50s. Consequently, the "Isaacs-Wann Stone House," as it was referred to in the 1860s and early 1870s, is a style quite rare for Montana's post Civil War period. This style, for those who can envision the recent structure,

featured, in its most obvious examples, a gabled roof, recalling the temple format of the Greek Revival period, and six-over-six windows sashes, Isaacs and Wann themselves called the residence "Mountain Home" probably for the splendid view that could be had from it of the Tobacco Root Mountains to the west.

The building's size was also significant. As a residence it was imposing, to say the least: 1,300 sq. ft. each on two residential and office floors, with a sizable basement, giving it well over 3,000 sq. ft. of usable space. Isaacs had it build out of native stone in just two months--August and September 1867--for the then pricey and unauthorized sum of \$8,000. When Isaacs was fired only four months later for insubordination, one of the many charges against him was that he had been given no authority to construct a building of such size, elaborateness, and expense. Isaac's rejoinder, captured in depositions given by the superintendent and the owners, was remarkable: In bringing out his wife, Maria Josephine Isaacs, he had determined to provide for her a home and standard of living in no way inferior to what she was accustomed to in New York City!

The *Montana Post* of December 28, 1867, was clearly enthralled by the building: "Overlooking [the company's operations] rises the magnificent dwelling of Mr. Isaacs. two stories high of substantial stone walls, neatly and durably built, presenting evidences to the eye of the visitor, of comfort, neatness, and though far away from the centers of civilization and refinements even here in this new and distant land, that industry, perseverance, and toil will have its rewards."

Perhaps Isaacs was only building what he envisioned his superiors would expect if they ever visited. Of Scotch-Irish British birth, Alexander McAndrew and Samuel Wann had made millions in Lower Manhattan as importers and as agents for the British capitalized Atlantic and Great Western Railroad, one of the very first railroads to penetrate the rich oil discovery regions of northwest Pennsylvania. They owned elegant mansions in the hill country of Staten Island, New York, and in truth their fortunes were not seriously impacted by their speculations in Montana gold mining.

Isaac's departure meant the end of the structure as a mining residence and office. The company's new superintendent, despairing of making the operation in the Lower Hot Spring District profitable, moved the mining machinery to Rochester Gulch, west of Twin Bridges, in the spring of 1868. This endeavor also failed, and after inspection by the New York owners, both ventures were totally abandoned. In the meanwhile, the Isaacs-Wann Stone House stood idle, unoccupied--boarded up for safety.

New ownership in 1870 revived the "old lady's" usefulness. *(Continued on page 3)*

Red Bluff Stone House *continued from p 2*

In that year Frederick Merk, a German-born Virginia City merchant, attached a lien on the stone house and its adjoining structures (the mill, assay office, blacksmith, and bunk house/galley--three walls of this latter structure have been remodeled into a loafing shed), and was subsequently able to purchase all of the above at a Sheriff's Sale. Merk's luck with the old McAndrew and Wann operation also suffered and he moved his operation to the Madison, or Mother Hendricks, Lode on Weeping Water Creek, near the top of Norris Hill.

Exactly what use the Stone House was put to in the years between 1870 and 1877 is unclear., but in 1873, Merk sold the mill and its adjoining buildings, but not the Stone House, to John Thomas. It is during the early '70's that the tiny settlement known as Red Bluff began to grow around the former McAndrews & Wann properties. Then in 1877 Merk sold the Stone House to Robert H. Foster, who operated the structure as a hotel and stage stop on the Virginia City to Bozeman road. Three years later "Foster's Hotel" was sold to Franklin M. Weaver, a principal member of a large family from Missouri. In 1886 the Weaver family sold the hotel to Albert Tanner, who continued to employ the building in the hotel and stage stop business. It was during this period, the 1880's, and particularly the early 1890s, that Red Bluff reached its peak as a mining community. The introduction of cyanide, which made it possible to extract gold from previously difficult-to-reduce low-grade ores, and the decision of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the late 1880s to run a spur to nearby Norris from its Jefferson River main line in order to exploit the Hot Spring District's values, sizably increased the community's number of residents and structures. At least thirty buildings can be identified through photographs and survey maps, and 180 persons claimed residence for the 1900 census. [Unfortunately, the 1890 Montana census was destroyed in a fire.] Albert Tanner, who continued to run the Stone House--now "Tanner's Hotel"--as a commercial enterprise, appeared to be doing well, describing himself as a "capitalist" for the same census-taker.

But the boom was short-lived. The crash and recession of 1893-98, declining values and excessively high water levels, all of which made mining less profitable and more difficult, led to Red Bluff's precipitous decline after the turn-of-the century. Red Bluff rapidly approached ghost town classification. Albert Tanner had died, but his wife, Cynthia, continued to reside in the Stone House, sometimes in the form of a boarding business. In approximately 1916 or perhaps a bit later--no record can be found in the Madison County Courthouse--George B. Rowe, Sr., a Hot Spring rancher filed under the Homestead Act for acreage in and around Red Bluff. To his surprise his survey

revealed that the Stone House, still occupied by Mrs. Tanner, lay within his claim. After stubborn resistance Mrs. Tanner finally sold to the Rowe family towards the end of World War I.

For almost forty years George Rowe, and then his sons, successfully ran cattle and sheep on a substantial spread known as the Rowe Brothers Ranch, with the Stone House, now converted back into a dwelling, central to its operation. One of the brothers, Ray Rowe, left behind rich 1980 and 1982 interviews with this author describing what it was like to live in the Stone House in the 1920s and '30s, and much about the general livestock operation. Aging and declining health, however, induced the extended family to sell the ranch to Montana State College in 1965, incorporated the Red Bluff ranch in its agricultural extension program. The Isaacs-Wann Stone House continued to be utilized for at least another decade as a residence/office building for the ranch's superintendent.

By the 1970s, a much smaller, but much improved residence was constructed for the onsite MSU ranch manager, and the Stone House, used for storage, was allowed to deteriorate. By 1980, most of the structure's windows lay open or held broken panes of glass (120 of them had to be replaced), and the sashes that held them were falling apart. In addition, the fascia on the gables had rotted or fallen off, allowing hundreds of bats to take up residence in the building's attic. The interior of the structure was littered with broken glass and fallen plaster. Barbed wire strands had been woven together and rigged perpendicularly through floors as tension support for at least one corner of the building. The roof, which had lost its east side and its chimneys in a wind storm in the early '70s, was beginning to part at the ridge. This was its condition when in the spring of 1982 MSU President William Tietz provided funding to enable Kingston Heath of the MSU Architecture Department to do an architectural study of Red Bluff's historic structures. An extensive 84-page written and illustrated report resulted, most of which covered the Stone House and which made recommendations for its stabilization and restoration. Two years later I led a team of MSU undergrad and grads (my wife and our four kids) on a two-week cleanup and repair mission so that we could utilize the building for instructional purposes that summer. Funds for repairs were obtained from President Tietz, who once again supported the instructional potential of Red Bluff with enthusiasm. The cleanup and repair mission was preparatory to the inauguration of the ambitious "Red Bluff interdisciplinary Development Project," purposed to utilize for instructional purposes the study-rich natural and historic environs offered by MSU's Red Bluff Ranch. With President Teits's continued support I supervised this educational multi-disciplinary-use program in the summer and

continued on page 4

Red Bluff Stone House continued from page 3 fall of 1984, involving students and faculty from the Departments of History (research on the history of Red Bluff), Sociology (historic archaeological dig of the original McAndrew & Wann assay office with assistance from the Museum of the Rockies and the University of Idaho), Geology (on-site examination of then accessible open-mine features) Civil Engineering (location of Red Bluff's original 1880's numerous survey points). and Botany (study of mosses and lichens native to the ranch). Unfortunately, the program was discontinued as the MSU Department of Animal and Range Sciences was strongly opposed to any use of the ranch other than for agricultural purposes. Consequently, the project fell by the wayside as the Department's objections and other issues requiring resolution between the College of Agriculture and the President's Office took precedence.

Since then, various efforts have been made by various agencies, within and without the University, to rationalize the Stone House's restoration or disposition to an owner or lessee who would preserve its historic and architectural integrity. For example, in 2001 discussions with the Architecture and Engineering Division of the State Department of Administration revealed a deep concern within that agency for the building's fate. The Montana Preservation Alliance's concern in 2002 resulted in a workshop in Norris to 1) discuss needs for preservation and 2) to arrange for the installation of a protective roof covering the Stage Stop. This became a cooperative effort between MSU, the MPA, and quite a few folks from the Madison River Valley community who contributed their time and money to underwrite the repair. And most recently, members of the Montana Heritage Preservation and Development Commission expressed an interest in assuming responsibility for the structure, but after considerable study the University declined to divest itself of the property. Now, destruction by fire has made that course a non-issue, although there is lively discussion currently taking place about stabilizing some of the ruins and properly signing them with words appropriate to the historic and architectural significance of this once remarkable building.

Part two consisting of anecdotal items of interest to MVHA members will be in a later issue.

From the Mail Box: Janice Fantz of Columbus, MT stopped by the museum to inquire about the McAllister Church. We gave her what information we had and mailed a copy of the *Wagon Tongue* to her which included the McAllister Church history. She sent this information to her aunt, Phyllis Speck, and we received this letter of August 24, 2006:

My niece, Janice Fantz has sent me the material you sent her regarding the McAllister Church. My father, the Reverend Ernest J. Mills, was the

pastor there for three years in the '20's. He also served Ennis and Norris with a service in McAllister in the morning, Norris in the afternoon and Ennis in the evening.

I attended the little one-room school house for those three years--grades 4th, 5th and 6th. I am now nearly 94 years old and remember quite well our life in McAllister. With others, I've been driven by the area in recent years but have never stopped to look around. The old pump which provided our water was still standing.

Life in McAllister was certainly rugged but we accepted it as the way of life. In the winter my mother would put hot water bottles in my sister's and my bed as the upstairs was freezing cold. The house was heated by a kitchen range and a wood and coal stove in the living room--adequate enough for the downstairs area.

My father had never driven a car but it was necessary to have one in a three point charge. He did ride horseback (also something he'd never done before) to Norris and Ennis a few times but was never comfortable with that new experience.

Our good friends in McAllister were the Paul and Isam Love families. I'm wondering if they are relations of yours--their descendants.

There was no electricity at the time I lived there. We managed with gas lamps and went to bed early. As I mentioned our water came from a well and was heated on the stove. Baths were taken once a week on Saturday night, with a minimum amount of water and clean clothes were put on Sunday morning.

For amusement often my sister and I and neighbor children, including Verna Fletcher and Marjorie Hughes, would stage weddings in the church. No boys were involved except Verna's younger brother.

Janice sent me pictures of the church, outside views and one of the kitchen stove--it all brings back memories.

I would like to attend the service on Sept. 10 and will keep it in my mind just in case there's a possibility of being there.

Sincerely, Phyllis F. Speck (Phyllis Mills)
(Thank you, Phyllis, for this wonderful update of the McAllister church history and of early day living. And as a note, Phyllis did get to attend the church service on Sept. 10 and visited with several of our MVHA members while there)

Photos on page 5: 1) MVHA group at the old Monta Neely place on the August 24 field trip. 2) MVHA members participating in the archeological dig at the Ruby Creek Battle site. August 7-10 Project sponsored by Mark Sant of the BLM 3) Rick Arnold drawing for the 50/50 winner at the July 13 Potluck meeting and social at Lions Club Park. Larry Love, Jo Thompson, Will Hoffeld, Kid Neville and Zoe Todd look on.

(1)



(2)



(3)



For Your Reading Pleasure

Although this book was featured in the Jan.'05 edition of the W.T., the loss of the Red Bluff Stone House brings us back to it. If you haven't at least read excerpts from **The Mechanics of Optimism** by Dr. Jeffery Safford, you will be missing out on a lot of history of the rise and fall of the Hot Spring Mining District. .

A book listed in the April '05 WT and worth a repeat now is **Journal of a Trapper** by Osborne Russell. Members of the MVHA archeological dig group were poring over pages of this book as we tried to figure out where the actual fight took place near Ruby Creek.

Both books are available at the Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis or check with your local library

History members: Please mention any book you have read that helped you understand the Montana and Madison Valley History a little bit better and we will share your find with our members.

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Looking Ahead

October 29, 2006 1:00 to 4.00pm Annual Old Time Social and Open House at the museum at 121 West Main in the Wildlife Museum Building. Plan to stop by to step back into the past.

November 9,2006 Monthly MVHA meeting 4:00pm at the VFW hall in Ennis. Daylight savings time is over and we are back to 4:00 meetings!!

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
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Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing Editor: Dr. Jeffrey J. Safford *An Obit for the Red Bluff Stage Stop and Hotel*

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 5 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2007

From the Wagon Seat: Good bye "06"! Hello "07"! Well that didn't take long..12 months to be exact. In that 12 month period the MVHA has been to church, had a picnic, dug in the ground, found lead balls from Indian fight, walked the 22 acres on the V.C. hill, moved the sign to the VC hill, moved the museum items from Neil Kent's garage to what is now our temporary museum location. (You all know where that is.), kept the museum open 6 hours a day and 6 days a week, planted and watered the plants at the museum plus housekeeping. A flag with the MVHA logo was made to hang outside the museum. Several trips were made to the Museum of the Rockies for artifacts that they gave to us. These are all in storage awaiting a larger museum space. Met with some of the EHS teaching staff introducing them to our organization and museum. Made a home in the museum for "the bell". Do you know about our bell? Numbered and cataloged items large and small which have been donated to MVHA. Invited to make a historical display and visited the new First Madison Valley Bank to see where the display would be. Formed a committee to take care of this project and we are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labors. Formed committees to study the out of town and in town museum sites and reports have been given at board meetings. Letters of refusal regarding the old Catholic Church and railroad depot buildings were sent to the respective parties. We won again at the 4th of July Parade and we are ready again with horses and wagon on reserve. Our open house was 10/29/06 at the museum. Nice to see everyone there. Good cookies! Got the Jimmy Spray book printed and sold copies at the Holiday bazaar and Christmas Stroll. Christmas meeting was held held at the Ennis Fire Hall. Christmas stories were told, sang Christmas songs and a pot luck was served with lots of good recipes. Maybe we should have a cook book committee. We did a lot of things in 2006 and accomplished some things. What would you like to see done and accomplished in 2007? Keep your board and membership informed of your ideas. Happy New Year!! Your Wagon master, Zoe Todd

 Note the new look of your Wagon Tongue. Thanks to John Falat for designing the new MVHA logo and thanks to Otis Thompson for walking the editor through the steps to get it from a CD to the printed page. You will be seeing the John Falat MVHA logo in more places in the future.

History Tidbit: "Early Settlement and Growth in the Madison Valley: Joe Brion and George Thorpe were the first two men to stay permanently in the valley, but they did not homestead until quite a few others had done so. William Ennis was the first homesteader in the valley, having taken up the site of the present town of Ennis. He built his house in the latter part of June, 1863, and announced that he was going to start a town..... " From Early Days in the Madison Valley by Jimmy Spray

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Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to membership The following have joined since the October 2006 issue. Please add them to any list you may be keeping. If you need a complete list of all current members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print you a list.

Black, Dale and Virginia (F) 682-4887
P.O. Box 845
Ennis, MT 59729

Choate, Robin (I) 624-6207
3300 Graf St. #54
Bozeman, MT 59715

Clark, Ray and Juni (P)
P.O. Box 450
Ennis, MT 59729

Johnson, Pat Baker (I) 509-522-4948
541 Ethel
Walla Walla, WA 99362-9735

Kreitzer, Ellen Baker (I) 425-489-5068
21026 72nd Ave. S.E.
Snohomish, WA 98296

McMahon, Anita Baker (I) 406-251-9489
8601 Wise River Rd
Missoula, MT 59803

Memorials for 2006

Roberta Carkeek Cheney
Kay Hautier
Julia Rochez

The October issue is too far in front of Christmas so I am including this article for the first issue right after Christmas.
Christmas in Montana 1886 by EC Abbott and Helena Huntington Smith [We Pointed Them North: Recollections of a Cowpuncher](#) (pp 175-179)

I wore two pairs of wool socks, a pair of moccasins, a pair of Dutch socks that came up to the knees, a pair of government overshoes, two suits of underwear, pants, overalls, chaps, and a big heavy shirt. I got a pair of woman's stockings and cut the feet out and made sleeves. I wore wool gloves, and great big heavy mittens, a blanket-lined sourdough overcoat, and a great big sealskin cap. That way I kept warm enough. But not any too warm. For that was the celebrated winter of '86-'87 that broke the back of the range cattle business.....

We had two weeks of nice weather just before Christmas. But on Christmas Eve it start to storm and never really let up for sixty days. It got colder and colder. I have a cutting from the post paper at Fort Keogh that reads that on January 14 it was 60 below zero...

Pike(Landusky) had a cabin right close to the (Little) Rockies where he lived with his wife and family. Mrs. Pike was a French-woman from Louisiana...She was a good housekeeper and a real nice little woman when she wasn't stirred up about something, and the only human being I ever net who was a match for Pike.

I lived with him that winter and the company (the DHS, Granville Stuart's outfit) paid him for my keep, but we was riding most of the time...(On) December 24, we left our camp at the foot of the mountains and started for Pike's for Christmas. I remember it was a beautiful day, clear and sunny... At sundown we camped close to Tucker's cabin at the north end of the Little Rockies, expecting to be home in time for Christmas dinner the next day. But after dark it began to snow...

Next day the storm was so bad we didn't even try to make it home, but rode over to John Healy's ranch on Lodge Pole because it was nearer. We found three men there, so we put our horses in by a haystack and all cooked a Christmas dinner of deer meat and son-of-a-gun-in-a-sack (plum duff) We stayed there two days, bu the storm kept getting worse, so we pulled out for home (on) December 27....when we got over the hill the wind and snow hit us so hard we could not see fifty feet ahead or hardly breathe...That night we rode into a narrow canyon where we were out of the wind, but we got off our horses in snow up to our waists. We built a fire and made coffee, and held our meat on sticks until it thawed out and ate it hot and raw..... Next morning we lit out for home and it was fight for life. We had to go sideways to the wind and horses hate that. The wind blew the breath right out of our bodies and the snow cut like a knife. We got home nearly all in...Mrs Landusky run out of the house and begun giving hell. She said: where was we, and why didn't we come home;

continued on page 3

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Christmas in Montana Continued from page 2

and this was a fine Christmas for her...alone here with all these children; and she cooked us a big dinner, and so on and so forth. Pike never said a word at first, while she kept on calling us everything she could lay her tongue to because we didn't come home to Christmas dinner, when we like to have froze to death in that awful blizzard and it was wonder we ever got there. And finally he turned to me and he says: "***** ! She was sure in the lead when tongues was give out!" And I laughed till I fell over in the snow.

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Madison Valley Woman's Club celebrated their 85th anniversary in 2006. The following article was written Nov. 15, 1984 by Roberta Carkeek Cheney with the help of Winifred Jeffers, Irma Manley, Margaret Daems, Frances Womack, Adah Thexton and Algean Bausch.

Madison Valley Federated Woman's Club: A history 1921-1984.

Members of the "Priscilla Embroidery Club" dropped their embroidery and turned into a service club when World War I was declared. They learned to knit, rolled bandages, and worked with the Red Cross. After the War, the members decided to continue as a service club with the goal of improving their own community.

The year was 1920 and the limited outreach program of those few women has grown to the present day Woman's Club with an annual income of about \$10,000, most of which is returned to the community in the form of scholarships, donations to the hospital, ambulance fund, playgrounds and a myriad of other worthwhile projects.

In 1921 the Madison Valley group was formally made part of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs. Serving as president was Susie Maynard, grandmother of Sue France, and serving as vice-president was Winifred Jeffers' mother, Jennie Chowning. And there was sixteen year old Frances Womack from New York City who had come to Ennis the year before with her soldier husband, Emmett. Frances joined the Woman's Club in 1922 and has paid her dues and been an active member for every one of the 62 years since then. We have many long time members but Frances holds the record for sustained membership.

There were no other service clubs in the area in the early days and then, as now, if there is a big job to be done, the Woman's Club tackles it and carries it through. There have been dramatic projects like raising \$2,775 for a desperately needed operating table for the hospital. The old makeshift one started to collapse during an operation and Edna

Carpenter had to get down on the floor under it and hold up the table until the surgeon finished. Sometimes it was a humble project like having two outdoor toilets built for the school.

The Smith family donated land for a cemetery but a fence was needed to keep the cattle out. The Woman's Club put on public card parties and basket socials to raise enough money for the metal fence that still serves. Much of the cemetery land was overgrown with sage brush and wild rose bushes. Each spring before Memorial Day, members of the Woman's Club took their lunches, hoes, rakes, and spent a day cleaning up the cemetery and grubbing out the weeds. Sometimes they hired a teen-age boy or two at \$1 per day to help.

Mrs. William Ennis, widow of the founder of the town, donated a part of her big lawn for a city park in the center of town. The Woman's Club put up a fence and provided benches, and picnic tables. At another location, they had a skating rink dug and lighted.

In 1938 the ladies became concerned with the need for a dump ground which could be used by residents of the valley. They bought eleven+ acres of land and promoted publicity for the proper handling of garbage.

The Volunteer Fire Department has been a permanent concern of the Club. In 1941 they purchased a siren and in 1944 they bought time clocks for the night watchman and set aside \$200 for the Fireman's Fund.

The health facilities of the community has been a constant concern of the Woman's Club. In 1948 they had the city ambulance painted, and in 1949 when the community sought to build a hospital, the Club responded with work and money. An "Amateur Hour" directed by the Woman's Club helped furnish a room in the new hospital. The Club also contributed to the new surgical wing. They have sponsored the TB Mobile Unit and blood donor program of the Red Cross and helped with a good vision screening program. Polio immunization was sponsored by the Woman's Club and administered by Doc and Olive Lossee. Five hundred dollars was sent to the Cancer Center in Billings and a like amount sent to the hospital at Galen for the Chapel.

Before television came to monopolize our living rooms and recreation hours, home talent plays were popular. They were a good fund-raiser and fun to produce. Members of the Woman's Club put on many of them--one was the ever popular "Mail Order Bride".

Education has been an on-going concern. Girls were sent to the Vocational Congress and later to Girls State. Roberta Angle Love was one of the first ones to go. Two Ennis girls were elected governors and went on to Washington, D.C. For over 50 years, the Club took the Junior and Senior Classes from the high school to Helena for a day at

Continued page 4

Madison Valley Federated Woman's Club,
continued from page 3

the Legislature and an interview with the Governor. Each year now, the Madison Valley Woman's Club awards \$1000 in scholarships to the Ennis High School graduating seniors. Another \$1000 is given to the alumni who are still attending college. The Club also administers some private donations for scholar-ships. The 1984 total given to students was \$3000.

This and other big community projects have been made possible by the income from the highly successful "Nearly New Shoppe" No one anticipated back there in 1971 that this recycling shop would generate the community interest, service, and income that it has. During the first ten years of its existence, the Nearly New Shoppe Board turned over to the Woman's Club more than \$53,000-all of which was reinvested into constructive community projects. In 1983, \$9000 was earned and expended for the good of the community. All work is done on a volunteer basis by members of the club. The only expenses are rent, heat and lights. Nothing is sold on consignment. Everything brought into the shop is on a donation basis and the great boxes of clothes, household goods, books, and a variety of odds and ends continue to come from people in the area. The store is now open three days a week and the crew of volunteer workers is kept busy unpacking, sorting, even cleaning and ironing, so the merchandise is attractive and salable. Contributions of clothes are made to any family in dire need and many things are sent to the St. Vincent dePaul organization in Butte.

A library of sorts had been operating since 1914 with the ladies of the town taking turns being the librarian. Patrons paid 25 cents every three months for the privilege of checking out books. The Woman's Club decided to support the library as one of its major and ongoing projects. It was first housed in the room above the Chowning Store. (That's where the Nearly New keeps its extensive collection of period costumes now). Eventually the Clancy home on Main Street was converted into a library. The Woman's Club helped the city raise money to buy the building and now contributes \$300 a month to support the library. The librarian and her volunteer assistants keep it open three days a week and conduct an active reading program for children.

Other Woman's Club contributions made possible by the Nearly New income include \$887 to further develop the Lion's Club camp ground and the children's fish pond and playground. \$600 went to the Search and Rescue Unit, a group of volunteer men who rescue people who are lost or involved in an accident.

The intensive care and heart monitoring unit at the local hospital was given \$887. The back yard of the Ennis Nursing Home was fenced so the residents could be in a protected place outdoors. Landscaping was provided around the building.

The Madison Valley Woman's Club has always supported state custodial institutions especially those concerned with children and veterans. Donations were made to the former Aqua project where hot springs near Polson were used for therapy with children and we have more recently supported the Shodair Hospital's program for adolescent drug and alcohol addiction.

In 1961 and '81, we hosted District Conventions. The Club received recognition and awards from the State Federation for its Community Improvement Projects. Several members have served as project chairman for the Montana Federation. Catherine Armitage is currently president of District Two and Irma Manley is the state Kitchen Conservation chairman.

The motto "Seek to serve rather than to be served" that was adopted at that organizational meeting 63 years ago has been the basis for , and indicative of, the enthusiasm, the work, and the accomplishments of the Madison Valley Federated Woman's Club. The red carnation chosen as the symbolic flower appears each year at the Anniversary tea to remind us of the need for beauty in our lives along with all that volunteers, officer, and committee work that has led to the success of the Club.

Editor's note. The Woman's Club is still doing many of the things mentioned in 1984. Names and faces have changed. The Nearly New has moved twice and is purchasing the old Angle Hardware building. The sale of donated items still continues and donations to the community continue. There are still members of the current Woman's Club who are decendants of the original club so history still goes on.

Museum Update 2006

The mission of the MVHA is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs, and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education. As most of you are aware, the MVHA rented space for about 3 years in Grandma's Overflow until the building was sold and the artifacts put into storage. Because our artifacts were not available for public display and because the projected museum was not started yet, the MVHA chose to rent the two rooms in front of the Altimus Wildlife Museum to house our museum for the 2006 tourist year.

This was a beneficial move for the MVHA

Museum Update Continued from page 4

as the museum gained exposure and we had a small but steady income selling tickets to the Wild life Museum. Tourists and locals who came to see the Wildlife Museum had an opportunity to view the MVHA Museum too and some came to see the MVHA Museum and were pleased to have a chance to visit the Wildlife Museum.

The MVHA museum was open from May 25, 2006 to October 29, 2006 Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. when volunteers were available to have it open. A quick look at the guest book shows that there were visitors from all over the United States and many parts of the world. The Museum was open a total of 718 hours but could have recorded more hours if all shifts could have been manned. Forty four total MVHA members worked a shift or more this past season. 328 of the hours were covered by the 7 MVHA Board members with Zoe Todd leading the group with 85 hours plus doing all the scheduling.

It is obvious that the MVHA needs more of our member's volunteer help. Please, right now, make a New Year's Resolution to increase your volunteer hours at the Museum by at least 1 shift or more. If you did not get an opportunity to work a shift, please plan on volunteering this next season. If you are a summer resident, plan to get your volunteer hours completed during your months in the Madison Valley. If you not longer live here, but still return once in a while to visit family or attend a reunion, plan to work a museum shift during your stay. If you live in a town nearby, plan to drive to Ennis to spend a day and work a shift at the museum. It just takes a little planning and a telephone call or e mail from you to schedule you in. Volunteering is easy and fun. You do not need to know any Madison Valley History. There are many reference books that you and guests can use to answer any questions and you can also refer the question to one of our local historians.

If you do not live here, do not spend a part of the year here and just do not ever get back to Ennis, you can still help. You can continue to support the MVHA with your dues, donations and contributions, letters to the editor, history tid bits, history articles and other ways to share the history.

From the Mail Box: Ginny and Jack O'Neel wrote "Did you know that the Varney P.O. is located at the intersection of Varney Road and Gravelly Range Rd? It is tucked in against the bench. It needs to be saved. A small log structure that is falling down."

Donna L (Bennett) Armstrong wrote....."I remember writing an early history of Ennis and I think interviewing Jimmy Spray when I was in the 7th or 8th grade. If not him, then some other old timers..."

Early Days in the Madison Valley by Jimmy Spray has been printed by the MVHA and sales of the book are going very well. As of Jan 1, 2007 the price increased to \$18.00, If you still want to purchase a copy call 682-5780 or 682-4360 and you can arrange to pick up a book in Ennis. You may send a check for \$18.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling for each book ordered (total of \$21.00 for each book) to MVHA, PO. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729 and book(s) will be mailed to you. All profits made on this book will go to the museum building fund.

Thank you to all of you who have already supported this project by purchasing a book.

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For your reading pleasure

Early Days in the Madison Valley by Jimmy Spray is a historical accounting of the brave pioneers who settled this unique area of southwest Montana in the 1800's. Purchase information see above and there is a copy for in library use at the Madison Valley Public Library.

We Pointed Them North: Recollections of a CowPuncher by E.C. Abbott This is an as-told-to memoir of the early years of a cowboy who grew up in Nebraska and drove cattle along the western trails, settling in Montana, where he worked for several cattle owners, all during the 1870s and 1880s. This book is available for check out at the Madison Valley Public Library and at many other libraries. Just check your local library.

Montana Trivia Get your atlas or state road map out and join the fun. Below is a list of clues to the names of Montana towns and cities. Find the Montana town name that matches the clue. Answers at the Feb. Meeting and printed in the April W.T.

1. A small horse
2. Union General
3. A large tree
4. A section of New York
5. Sheriff of Dodge City
6. A kind of bean
7. An African Explorer
8. A red gem
9. A large rock
10. Double crossing
11. Some table utensils
12. A man who works in a flower bed
13. A girl's town
14. Devil's tool
15. A wash bowl
16. Great learning

Montana trivia will continue next issue with more clues. Thanks to Zoe Todd for contributing this.

Looking Ahead

Feb. 8- 4:00pm Regular scheduled meeting at VFW Program to be announced.

March- William Ennis Birthday month. Watch for date and time of the birthday party

April 12-7:00pm Daylight savings time has started so note time change. Regular scheduled meeting at VFW. Program to be announced.

The **fundraising committee** has been working on some future projects;

Look forward to an **Old Time Country Dance** to be held in the spring at the Bear Creek School House.

A **House Tour to Historic Homes** and a tour of **Old Barns** are being planned for sometime in 2007. Watch for details.

Help Needed

Program chairperson Smitty Overstreet has arranged programs for too many years to count and she would like a break. You , as members, have completed a long list of suggested topics and speakers as suggested ideas. MHVA just needs someone to make the arrangements. Call 6824405

Zoe Todd and Shirley Love have done the **museum scheduling** for the past 4 years. Are there others out there who could complete their volunteer time by doing museum scheduling? Does not have to be one person. A committee would be great. Call 682-4360 or 682-5780.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd

Vice President: Jim Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Mary Ann Alger

Director: Shirley Love

Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April 2007.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing Editors: E.C. Abbott

Roberta Carkeek Cheney

Zoe Todd

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 5 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2007

From the Wagon Seat: Winter is over, spring is here, time moves on and the MVHA keeps moving on. We have had some very good programs about the Madison Valley history and we are looking forward to continuing our good programs for the summer. The snowbirds will be back with us in May to help us out. The board has agreed to rent the front on the Altimus building again this year for our temporary museum. We are accumulating more artifacts and have one and one half storage sheds full. We acquired some mannequins to dress up in historical clothing for this summer.

Our book, Early Days in the Madison Valley by James Spray has been selling very well with only 45 left of the original order of 311 copies. Did you get yours?

In looking ahead for the next couple of months, the MVHA will need your help. On April 13, our Old Time Country Dance Fundraiser will be held at the Bear Creek School House near Cameron. Plan to attend and encourage community members to attend. The annual meeting will be May 10. It will be a pot luck meal with a meeting following the meal to approve the budget and elect two directors to the board. Please say Yes when asked to run for a director's position. Plans are being made for a Historical House Tour and a Historical Barn Tour. Committees will be formed to work on organizing these tours. We have had such a good record on our floats for the 4th of July parade and we need a float committee. The theme is Celebration of the American Cowgirl.

We need a person or persons to schedule volunteers for the Museum season. The Museum will open on Memorial Day weekend and run until after the Hunter's Feed in October. If everyone would take a couple of shifts during that time period, it would really help out. It really is fun to talk to people who stop in to see the museums. And during slow times, there is a wealth of historical materials for volunteers to read and update themselves on Valley history.

Smitty would also like to find someone to take over the program chair. Suggestions and ideas for programs and field trips are always welcome. MVHA is putting together stories of the Earthquake, the Gorge and Christmas Memories experienced by you. Write these stories down and send them in. We have two committees working on a future museum site. One committee is researching the in town possibilities and the second committee doing work on a museum on the 22 acres of donated land. We will be presenting both sets of ideas and welcome discussion at the Annual meeting in May. If you have ideas, suggestions, opinions and anything that could help in this dialog about the future museum, we need your input so let us know by writing, telephone or email. The board will take all the information and make a recommendation so that we can move on.

Help us formulate plans to build a museum for the preserving of the history of the Madison Valley and as a tribute to our early day pioneers. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

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Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to membership The following have joined since the January 2007 issue. Please add to any membership list you are keeping. If you need a complete list of all current members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print you a complete list.

Tupis, Carolyn K. (l) 585-638-7545
17046 LaDue Rd.
Holly, N. Y. 14470

Stories of the Madison Valley Gorge

The Madison Valley experienced a pretty extensive gorge this winter and many gorge stories and pictures, past and present, were shared at the February meeting. Several stories will be printed in this issue. If you have gorge stories, please submit them and they will be printed in the December 2007 and January 2008 issues of the Wagon Tongue.

Gorge: A continuing Story

On Feb 9, 2007 my grandson, Jake, was crossing the bridge going into Ennis, he looked upstream and saw water, ice, debris, and a frantic deer in the middle of it all. Jake called his dad, Gary, on his cell phone and asked him where he was and Gary said he was just coming into Ennis from the North. Jake told him the dilemma of the deer. When Gary arrived the deer was close to an ice chunk North of the bridge, so Gary quickly drove to his ranch and got two ropes and hurried back. They tied a rope around Gary and he laid on the ice next to the bank and roped the deer. He pulled and pulled but couldn't budge the deer. Jake then tried but after the second pull, heard a bang, looked up and saw big chunks of ice and water coming. They managed to get the rope off the deer and crawled back to the bank. They were unable to save the deer. Shortly after that, the ice they had been lying on broke away. Gary and Jake said that the river sounded like a war zone. I have heard the same sound at the ranch when the gorge begins and when it breaks up. This will not be the only continuing story of the gorge as there will be many more stories in the future. Submitted by **Shirley Gustafson**, mother of Gary and grandmother of Jake.

Gorge 1947

When I was a young bride in 1947, my husband, Bud Baker, worked for the Montana Power Company and on this evening we had gone to a movie and then to Baker's Cafe for a piece of pie. The power went off so we went home and Bud got all his warm clothes on and went to Jack Rouses. Jack was the Montana Power maintenance man for the area. They did some checking by turning the power on to see what area was out. They found out it was in the gorge between Ennis and Jeffers. They put on their hip boots and got a boat with each one putting a leg in the boat and one on the outside and a long pike pole across in front of them so if they hit a hole in the ice, they maybe could keep from tipping over. They got to the area and found that a beaver had chewed the pole down. They had to send for a crew from Bozeman to come over and put the pole back up. I don't remember how they got it to stay up in that ice, but when Bud got home the next morning, he was so cold from being out all night. Before coming home, they stopped at the Drug Store to see if Hiene Rakeman need help. He was just checking to see if the furnace had come on all right. Hiene offered them a drink of whiskey and he was a man who never drank anything like that. Bud was paid \$5.00 extra for being out all night checking on the power outage.

The Montana Power Company moved the lines during the next summer to where they now stand along the road to Jeffers. Submitted by **Mary Ann (Neville) Baker Alger**

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Gorge story from the Call Ranch

This pile-up took place in February, the coldest month in Montana. One of our herders and his sheep were camped near the Madison River. The thermometer had been hovering between thirty-five and forty below zero for a week, and for hours on end a furious wind had been blowing. The wind died down at dusk on the night of the big pile-up, but the cold remained. The herder bedded his sheep near the wagon, prepared a meal for himself and his dogs and retired early.

(Continued on page 3)

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Call Ranch continued from page 2

Shortly after he got himself comfortably settled in his bunk, the dogs began to whine with the still, deadly cold--to leap and scratch against the door. The man took pity on the animals, got up and let them into the wagon, first making sure that the sheep were safe on the bed ground.

During the night the wind sprang up again, and it began to snow. The herder was so fatigued from his day of exposure that he slept through these signals of danger. Now, there's nothing in the world that will cause sheep to become so restless as a high, cold wind. The wind penetrates their fleece, they endure the cold and discomfort just so long and then they begin thinking about seeking better shelter. When the dogs are on guard their restlessness gets no further than thinking, for the dogs start to bark at the first move and warn the herder.

Sometime in the middle of that fatal night the sheep left the bedground. They traveled with the wind and somewhere along the way the band split. One bunch went into the foothills and were later recovered with only a small loss. The other bunch followed the course of the river for several miles and came presently to a place where the river made a decided bend, almost a horseshoe bend. The land was low here and a side hill gave the sheep the protection they had been seeking, so they bedded down again.

Before morning the river gorged and cut a new channel straight across the bend, leaving the sheep marooned on what was now a small island between the new channel and the original one.

I've been told that there is only one other river in the world which has the peculiarities of the Madison River. Other rivers freeze from the top down, but the Madison River freezes from the bottom up. The bed of the river is covered with great boulders. Slush ice forms on top, sinks and clings to these boulders, and little by little the ice builds up until the river gorges. The water backs up then and floods all the surrounding country.

When our sheep were first trapped in the bend there were around one hundred acres of dry ground on the small island. As the river continued to back up this ground became flooded. At first the sheep huddled together, but as the water rose and there was no longer enough dry ground for all to have a footing, they were terrified, lost their heads and began to climb on one another's backs.

The bottom layer of sheep perished and as the water grew deeper the others kept scrambling upward, the stronger trampling the weaker beneath their hoofs, until several layers of sheep lay dead. The survivors, those on top, just managed to keep their heads above water. As the night wore on the water in this newly flooded area, which was practically free of rocks, began to freeze in the normal fashion, from top to bottom, and the upper portions

of the sheep's bodies were locked tight in ice.

Toward dawn, when the herder got up to turn his dogs out, he discovered that all of his sheep were missing. He hurried into his clothes and set out to look for them. But he was at a loss to now which way they had gone. The wind, which could have determined the general direction, at least, had stopped blowing and all track of the strays had been obliterated by the falling snow.

The distracted herder hunted for hours before he located his sheep, and then he was too shocked to believe his eyes. He looked out on what appeared to be a solid lake of ice, into which several hundred live sheep were frozen to the neck. It was a sight that might have dazed a more imaginative brain than his. I saw this phenomena several hours later and I know just how he felt. I shall never forget that expanse of rigid, bodiless heads, the wild, staring eyes or the feeble bleats that came from too few exhausted throats.

The situation was one the herder could not hope to cope with alone. It was foreign to anything he had ever experienced and he set out immediately for help. He was ten miles from the home ranch but less than five from the county road, which he reached in a couple of arduous hours. He was lucky enough to encounter a rancher who was hauling hay. The rancher got to a telephone as quickly as possible and relayed his message.

We had reason to thank the country telephone that day. When we arrived at the river with a truckload of men--armed with shovels, sheep crooks, and pickaxes--we found a number of our neighbors had got there before us. The rancher who lived nearest had driven down to the river, looked the situation over and rushed back to his ranch for a number of lambing panels and some lengths of rope. These panels were tied together and made into rafts, upon which the sheep were lifted as fast as they could be chopped out of the ice.

The rescue of those icebound ewes is something nobody present will ever forget. It began in early afternoon and was completed by lantern light around ten o'clock that night. As the day wore on the storm increased in velocity. The driving, swirling snow beat against the faces of the rescue party, all but blinding them.

The rafts had to be dragged out to the sheep by hand (and when darkness came, on hands and knees). It was a tricky and dangerous procedure. The ice in the bend had frozen less than a foot from the top. Beneath this ice there was several or more feet of treacherous, rushing water. One false step or careless shifting of weight could easily break this ice and plunge a man to his death before help could reach him. In spite of precautions, two men did break through to their waists, but they managed to scramble out and worked along with the rest in stiff, frozen clothing until every last sheep was hauled to high dry land.

(continued on page 4)

Call Ranch continued from page 3

Those ewes were the strangest sight I have ever see. They could scarcely walk because chunks of ice weighing easily twenty-five pounds still clung to their backs and bodies, and they were forced to carry this fantastic burden about for weeks before it finally melted and came loose from their wool. The unbelievable part of this pile-up is that not one sheep rescued was any the worse for her experience. But the pile-up cost us dearly, nevertheless, because the dead sheep were locked tight in the gorge and when the ice broke in the spring, the pelts were worthless.

A pile-up heads the list of sheep calamities, but strayed sheep can get into more trouble than it's possible to foresee or guard against. I never think of the lines of the nursery rhyme,

*Leave them alone and they'll come home
Wagging their tails behind them,*

without smiling. Lost sheep seldom come home, and if they should it's an accident. You go after them. Excerpted from **Golden Fleece** by Hughie Call, pages 170-174, Published 1942

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Laraine McIntyre of Calgary, Canada visited the MVHA museum last summer inquiring about O.C. Whitney. She is the great, great granddaughter of O. C. and has shared a tememdous amount of material with the MVHA about the Whitney family. Following is an article by George Shepherd of stories told by Tom Whitney, son of O.C. Whitney From the *The Western Producer*, Sept. 23, 1965

Shooting Sheriffs in Montana

Shooting sheriffs got to be quite a hobby in Montana in the 1880's and 1890's, although I never indulged in the pastime myself. First to be killed was Bill Reader of Meagher County. Three or four of his deputies went as well, trying to capture a couple of old buffalo hunters--Bill Gay and Goos. Gay was afterwards captured and strung up. Goos made good his escape. I knew Gay well, as I had rented his corrals for two summers for my night herd

A man was shot on a train at Logan and the murderer rode the train through Bozeman to Livingston. The sheriff at Livingston had been notified but was shot to death while trying to make an arrest. The murderer escaped with all kinds of posse in pursuit He was supposed to have perished because of the extreme weather conditions at the time.

Another time two cowboys got into a mix-up in the Red Light district in Bozeman. A warrant was sworn out for their arrest. The sheriff, Chas Frenchman, and his deputy followed them to Cherry Creek in Madison County. They didn't expect any trouble as the charge was only creating a disturbance by gunshot. This meant a fine or a short time in the coop. They caught up to the boys in a little cabin and when the deputy opened the door he

was shot and killed. The two started to throw lead at the Frenchman. He was shot though the collar of his overcoat as he was trying to get out of range of the lead. He went back to Bozeman and raised a posse which came to our town of Ennis. The description fit two boys who had worked for the VF horse outfit. Their names were Whitton and Morgan

The trail was now hot. The Frenchman wanted Bill Ennis and I to go with the posse as I was familiar with the country and knew the escape routes. We could find no trace of the murderers but the search was carried as far as Arizona where Whitton was finally captured. I had quite a visit with him in the jail down there.

Morgan laid low with friends for a coupe of weeks and finally one of them spirited him out through one of the passes, disguised as a woman. They stopped at a friend of mine, got a bottle and went on to put Morgan on the train at Chestnut. He made good his escape. Coming back, they told Lattas who the supposed dame in the buggy was and caused quite a laugh.

Then came the shooting of Jim Summers, the sheriff of Madison County. He had served under Sheriff Joe Haines, as popular a sheriff as ever held the office. A complaint was made that sheep camps were being pilfered. A young fellow by the name of Wolff was suspected as he had a layout close by. Jim went out with a search warrant. Wolff saw him coming, took up his gun, locked the door and stepped into the bush to watch the proceedings.

Jim tried the door, took a look around and started to walk toward the bush where Wolff was. As Summers turned, Wolff shot. The bullet passed through one arm, through the heart and into the other arm. Summers took 10 steps from the spot where he had been hit and died. Wolff threw the shell out, put in another and shot again. Wolff later showed Bill Ennis the exact spot where it all took place.

Bill Ennis had asked me to go with him to work the summer range to gather cows needing to be hand fed during the winter. This summer range was about 20 miles from the home ranch and we had just returned from a long day's ride when Wolff appeared afoot, trailing his rifle. I knew him a little although I was quite unaware what had happened. I says, "Where is your horse, Johnnie?"

"Got bucked off." he says. "Why didn't you shoot him? He'll have your saddle all to hell and gone." Wolff says, "I threw my gun to make a ride and when the horse bucked me off, he was out of sight before I could gather my gun." Bill Ennis says, "Come on in, you're just in time for chow." We went into the log house where supper was made by the chowman, Lew Haughton. That was his real name. His alias wouldn't look good in print. Few people would recognize his real name as he always went by his alias.

Continued on page 5

Shooting Sheriffs in Montana cont. from pg 4

After washing up for supper, Johnnie took the seat facing the door and sat at the table with his rifle beside him. After supper, we visited and opened a few old cans as was customary in our camp. It was then dark and Johnnie says, "Guess I'll va-moose." Bill Ennis says, "Stay all night." "No, I have to be going." I went outside with Johnnie and nearly offered him my overcoat as it was chilly. After Wolff had gone Bill Ennis says, "That kid is gun crazy. Did you notice him take that gun right to the table."

We then retired with a full belly and our day's work done. Early to bed and early to rise was the cowman's motto. Lew was shaking the sour dough can to make a batter and thicken it at 4 o'clock that morning when there was a heavy pounding on the door and I heard a voice asking if Tom Whitney was there. I jumped out of bed and ran to the door in my shirt tails, thinking some of my folks were sick or in trouble.

On opening the door the light from the house revealed two men with guns in their hands pointing in the general direction of my belly and me in my socks and underwear and nothing else. They asked if Wolff was there and said that he had killed Jim Summers. They wanted me to join the posse so Bill Ennis asked them in for breakfast. In the meantime I had dressed and gone to the stable to investigate to see just how Wolff had gotten away. I found that he had taken my favorite horse, a Blue Ridge runner, one of the best, and also Bill's new saddle that had set him back a century. There was no doubt but that Wolff was well equipped to travel. Bill and I joined in the hunt as we were acquainted with the country and knew the escape routes a man would be likely to take. But I had no rifle. Says Bill "My old reliable is sure death at close range, you'll never get close enough to waste ammunition, but take her anyway."

Bill and Dick went by Curly Hill to the Wall Creek escape and Plum and I headed for Hutchier Ridge leading to Idaho. My horse had lost a shoe the previous day. Being something of an Injun, I commenced to look for the tracks. I was pretty sure Wolff would take the shortest route instead of following the wagon trail. I soon found the tracks of a horse minus a shoe, where it had crossed the ice. Following this telltale sign we kept to the track, which often crossed sloughs and small streams.

I followed the tracks when they went down a cow trail into the Madison River, which was then pretty high. I let my pony take a drink and then he took off into the river like a duck. The tracks on the other side headed for the Conray horse ranch, which had recently been sold to a man by the name of Nicker-son, who I had never met. As I quietly approached the place, I saw two men coming from the house. (to be continued in July 2007 Wagon Tongue) **5**

Montana Trivia Answers to January 2007 trivia

1. A small horse.....Pony
2. Union General....Sheridan
3. A large tree.....Big Timber
4. A section of New York.....Manhattan (or Harlem)
5. Sheriff of Dodge City....Dillon
6. A kind of bean....Lima
7. An African explorer....Livingston
8. A red gem...Ruby (or Garnet)
9. A large rock...Boulder
10. Double crossing...Twin Bridges
11. Some table utensils....Three Forks
12. A man who works in a flower bed....Gardiner
13. A girl's town...Virginia City (or Marysville)
14. A devil's tool....Trident
15. A wash bowl.....Basin
16. Great learning....Wisdom

If you found other good answers, please submit them to the editor!!

Continuing Montana Trivia Get your Montana Road Map or Atlas out. Find the Montana town that fits the following clues:

1. A person leaving a place
2. Monthly charges
3. A large snake
4. City limits
5. A learned stream
6. Prime minister of Great Britain during W.W.II
7. A bush or shrub in a small stream
8. British government or its policies
9. A steep hill, standing alone
10. Where Napoleon met his match
11. A tree usually growing in a moist area
12. Good card player
13. Bright point of light in sky at night
14. A small, narrow valley
15. A famous sailor

Answers will be available at May meeting and in the July Wagon Tongue. Thanks again to Zoe Todd

From the Mail Box In going through membership applications I came across these notes that were interesting and share a bit of history:

From Edna Schoenek Lay:

I was born in the upper Madison Valley on a homestead and grew up in Ennis.

My maiden name was Edna Schoenek. My parents owned the Fitzgerald Hotel and Cabins. They sold it to Maurice and Gen Hickey about 1950.

And from Myrtle Hunt Hendricks:

Many years ago I used to hike up to my father's homestead. There used to be two houses below his cabin. His homestead was below Otis Thompson's. My father was Ben Hunt. The cabins were his brothers' from Glade Hill, Virginia. One brother was John Hunt who later settled in Missoula and the other was Ike Hunt. I think the Court House in Virginia City burned and all records burned. I left Ennis in 1938.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Golden Fleece by Hughie Call. Hughie grew up on the Call Ranch (now the Bar 7) and this book is a wonderful story of her life there. Many Madison Valley residents have a copy and the Madison Valley Public Library has a copy.

This House of Sky:Landscapes of the Western Mind by Ivan Doig. This memoir was the One Book Montana selection for '06-'07. Beautifully written memoir of growing up in Montana on the eastern slopes of the Rockies. Available at most libraries or by interlibrary loan.

The United Postal Service mutilated a January 2007 issue of the Wagon Tongue but sent it in a "We Care" envelop back to us. Although the return address was intact, the mailing address was gone. If you did not receive your copy of the January 2007 Wagon Tongue, please let us know and we will get your copy to you immediately. We do not know who did not get it, so please let us know.

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Looking Ahead

May 10 Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner, election of board members and approval of budget. Watch for publicity as to time and place. MVHA plans to have Field Trips during the summer months but at WT publication date none have been confirmed.

#####

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love & Zoe Todd
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.
Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2007.

Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing Editors: Hughie Call from Golden Fleece
George Sheperd from *The Western Producer*
Zoe Todd for Montana Trivia

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 5 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2007

From the Wagon Seat: Wow! Is it hot out? Your Wagon Master and WT editor just got back from a month long trip to the North country and are trying to play catch up. The 4th of July parade is behind us. A big thank you goes out to everyone who had a hand in getting our float into the parade. A special thank you to all those cowgirls that rode in the wagon or on the truck to make our float a success.

We are planning to have a field trip to the Mining Museum in Silver Star in August. Smitty and the MVHA needs help to keep organizing programs. We are trying to keep the museum open but without any volunteers, this has been a struggle. Please call and say you will take a shift. MVHA needs a scheduler for the museum for August. Please volunteer. Many hands make light work.

The board is still pursuing the basics of getting a permanent museum. The old Norris Train Depot has been given to us and we are investigating moving it to our land. It is in fairly good condition and is currently sitting on private land about a half mile from our land. We are in the process of getting permission from the land owners to our east to expand the current approach. The land has been water witched for getting a well drilled and we will be determining a well site soon. Larry Keifer has sent us plans that he had drawn to code and at his expense for building a duplicate of the old forge building. Now we need to decide where to put these buildings on the land. Any builders out there with good ideas? MVHA can use your input.

As we move into the second half of '07, you can see there are many projects on which to make decisions and on which to work. And we need to think about some serious fund raising and grant writing. Without additional funds, all the good ideas and projects will never get off the planning stages.

The last item is a big thank you to Deb and Harry Townshend and their crew for having the annual Hutchins Bridge Party as a benefit for the MVHA. The Townshends are thinking about fundraising already!! The party is being held Sat., July 21, 2007 from 6 to 9pm at the Old Kirby Place. Plan to attend this fun event and pick up your tickets at the MVHA Museum, local banks, Old Kirby Place, from a Women of the Wild member, or just come and buy your ticket at the gate. MVHA members are helping out in various ways, but the main thing your organization needs from you would be a plate of cookies. Bring the cookies when you come or send them with someone who is going. See you at a meeting, field trip, or at the Museum. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

+++++
History Tidbit HORSERADISH FOR SALE Minnie Chamberlin had a beautiful horseradish patch next to her house. In the spring, she would dig up the roots, scrape them clean, and grind them in an old fashioned meat grinder. She would mix the ground horseradish with vinegar and sugar and bottle it in pint or quart jars.

My brother, Norman Chamberlin, and I would go around town selling it for \$2.00 a quart or \$1.00 a pint.

Our favorite customer was the banker, Hugh Wakefield. Other customers were Francis and Emmett Womack and Porter Nelson, to name a few.

Grandmother would let us keep the money, which we usually split. We generally made about \$10.00 and we thought we had made a fortune. Submitted by Doris "Dodie" (Chamberlin) Barnett

+++++
Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____) Student \$5.00 (____) Individual \$10.00 (____) Family \$15.00 (____) Business \$50.00 (____) Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the April 2007 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. If you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print you a complete updated list.

Clark, Jesse Love (I) 406-683-2028
116 Riverside Dr.
Dillon, Mt. 59725

Crump, Charles (I)
1225 Whirlwind Hill Rd
Wallingford, Ct 06492

Harper, Shirley Love (I) 801-451-5223
647 No. 400 E.
Farmington, UT. 84025

Morton, William & Monna (F) 682-5577 (Ennis)
110 Mattison Cv. NE
Atlanta, Ga 30319-1093

Shooting Sheriffs In Montana by George Shepherd of stories told by Tom Whitney
Continued from April 2007 issue

As we left Tom Whitney in the last issue, he was heading for the Conray horse ranch and... he quietly approached the place and saw two men coming from the house. They were headed for the barn.

I dropped down under the hill so that I would not be seen and approached the ranch buildings. I passed the corral and a big cow shed and there was Wolff saddling up my Blue Ridge runner. He had the bridle and the blanket on and was stooping to pick up the saddle when I called out, "Hands up Johnnie and come here through the fence." He looked at his gun standing by the fence. "No false moves Johnnie. I don't want to kill you and I have the drop on you."

He came through the fence as I stepped off my horse. But before I could search Wolff this man Nickerson came out of the barn with a Winchester rifle and rammed it into my middle. He was an ugly looking customer himself and he says, "What the hell are you up to?" I wasn't feeling too easy in my mind at this turn of events but I told Nickerson "This man has killed the sheriff and has stolen my horse and Bill Ennis's saddle."

Nickerson then asked Johnnie if this was so, while still keeping me in his gun sights. Johnnie admitted this was true and said that if I hadn't got the drop on him, I would have kicked in too. After Nickerson took the gun off me and trained it on Johnnie, I went through his clothes and found a 38 six-shooter in an inside pocket.

Wolff was now my prisoner and I took him out to head off Plum who was still on the wagon trail headed south. When we caught up to him he covered Johnnie with his gun and says to me "Go through him." I replied "I may look like a darn fool but he has been thoroughly searched so cut out that sort of stuff"

We then caught up to Bill and Dick and started to Virginia City, the county seat. Instead of taking the main road, we traveled the back roads in case we found a hanging posse. We went through the hills and thus avoided a bunch congregated to do the final act. We landed in Virginia City the back way and had Wolff in jail before they realized we were there. Personally we would have been glad enough to see Wolff strung up but as we had been sworn in as deputies, it was up to us to deliver the prisoner.

In the meantime the Governor of the State had offered a reward of \$500 for the capture of Wolff. Everyone I talked to said that I would get the dough as I was the one that took the chances. But the others got busy too, even Nickerson, to collect the bounty. Politics took a hand in it and so the reward was finally split four ways.

Feelings ran pretty high in the Madison county for Jim Summers was a popular figure with everyone. It sure looked like a neck-tie party for Johnnie. But Norris, Johnnie's lawyer, got a change of venue, and Johnnie was taken to Dillon at Beaverhead County. We were to give evidence at Dillon. It took several days before a jury was completed as over 100 jurymen were examined. There are none of those jurymen still living today as I remember. The prosecuting lawyer, Charlie Stewart, later became governor of the state and Norris, the defendant's attorney, later achieved high office too.

continued on page 3

Intentionally left blank for the back of the membership application.

It was a hard fought trial by the best lawyers in the state, with their helpers. Mrs. Summers was brought into court. The widow with her children, made quite an impression on the jury, for sympathy. Then came the plea of Norris to the jury for Wolff. He had Johnnie dressed in knee pants, looking like an innocent kid. The courthouse was packed. The plea of Norris for Wolff soon had all the females crying and even the jurymen were wiping their eyes. Especially when he said, "An aged father and mother in Wisconsin were on their knees at the bedside praying for the mercy of the jury for their wayward son."

I might have cried too if I had had a rag to wipe my eyes. When Norris opened up on Nickerson, it pleased me quite a bit as I had no love for that man. He said Nickerson reminded him of a mangy calf trying to follow a bunch of wild cows. The jury- men were mostly ranchers so a mangy calf would be passed up as worthless. Norris must have been the offspring of some old time rancher as he used cowmen's language. The jury came to a decision and Wolff was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the State prison at Deer Lodge.

Years afterward, after I had located in Canada , I was on my way back to Virginia City going through Butte, Montana. At Whitehall I went into a restaurant for breakfast. At one of the tables there sat a gentleman in store clothes feeding his face. As the waitress came to take my order she says "Do you want mush"---that's what they call oatmeal over yonder. I says "Madam. Don't talk mush to me as I want to forget all about it. I've been eating it out of a nosebag up in Canada."

The gentleman at the other table calls out and says "Come over here Tom and we will have a little visit." "Do you know me?" I says. He replies, "No, but I would recognize that voice in Purgatory. I am the man who defended Wolff at Dillon and your voice has remained with me as you can see." So we shook paws, sat down for a long talk about old times and enjoyed a good visit, minus the mush.

George Shephard, who loves his Saskatchewan history as much as anyone, frankly admits that his stories on Tom Whitney have nothing to do with the subject. But, he says, they do bring out, in a rather striking manner, the background of one of the best loved of the old time cattle barons of the Cypress Hills. "What amazes me," says Shephard,"is how the range men from the Montana territories, brought up under the most lawless conditions, settled quietly in Canada and became the most law abiding citizens any country could ask."

Tom Whitney took up a ranch adjacent to the Cypress Hills Park in the early 1900's. Today, the family still operates the ranch. Tom has a son, Ace, who lives in Maple Creek, and another son, Earl, who has ridden in the Calgary Stampede. This is a little of his story, told in the lingo of the open range. (Thanks to Laraine McIntyre ,great grand-daughter of Tom Whitney, for sharing this story.)

Montana Trivia Answers to April 2007 trivia

1. A person leaving a place-Emigrant
2. Monthly charges-Billings
3. A large snake-Anaconda
4. City limits- Townsend
5. A learned stream-Wise River
6. Prime minister of Great Britian during WWII- Churchill
7. A bush or shrub in a small stream-Willow Creek
8. British government or its policies-Whitehall
9. A steep hill-Butte
10. Where Napolean met his match-Waterloo
11. A tree usually going in a wet place-Alder
12. Good card player-Cardwell
13. Bright point of light in sky at night-Silver Star
14. A smalll, narrow valley-Glen
15. A famous sailor-Columbus

If you have an answer which you feel is just as good as the one given, please share. Montana trivia is a work in progress!! Watch for October issue for more Montana Trivia.

4th of July Parade

Zoe Todd and Karen Shores did a good job of co-chairing the float committee. With the theme of the Celebration of the American Cowgirl, Larry Love got Todd Brannon and his beautiful team of Belgian horses and his wagon. Pearl Kilman made wonderful signs, Kid Neville framed the signs and was the main jack of all trades, Fred and Darlene(Neville) Rochez provided the staging area, and Jimmy Carlson provided and drove an extra flat bed truck. Cowgirls from all walks of life were rounded up. They were: Marry Ann Alger representing her mother, Annie Thexton who in 1923 rode in the last roundup for the Arrny Calvary, Sandy Alger who represented her great grandmother, Lillie Hankinson who was a great horse woman in the 1925 era, Polly Todd who was herself helping to drive the horses and who was a rodeo queen as a teenager, Shirley Storey as Violet Thexton who rode side saddle in many parades, Mona Herrick Durham as herself and still a rancher, Shirley France Visintin as herself as a horse woman, Bev Miller Martin as herself as a horsewoman and leather artist, Bailey Flynn, grand-daughter of Darlene and Fred Rochez representing Dale Evans who rode through town on the silver screen, Ruby Gleason as herself and mother of Rodeo Champion, Brad Gleason, and wife of Famous Rodeo Clown, Larry Gleason. And the Robison girls.... Jerry Wing, Kate Robison, Vickie McNally, Patty Grauman and Molly Agarde, Kate's daughter, who all represented themselves as ranch women... Zoe Todd who represented Virginia Todd 1939 Rodeo Queen and last but not least the 2007 Rhinestone Cowgirl, Karen Shores. Thanks to this committee and all the individuals who made this a great float!!

For Your Reading Pleasure

Rain or Shine: A Family Memoir by Cyra McFadden. With Montana and other parts of the nation attending rodeos and following their favorite rodeo cowboy, it would be a great time to read this memoir. The author describes an emotionally tumultuous life as the daughter of celebrity rodeo announcer, Cy Taillon.

Looking Ahead

Don't miss the Annual Hutchins Bridge party on July 21 at the old Kirby Place from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Tickets can be purchased at MVHA Museum, local banks, Old Kirby Place, from Women of the Wild or at the gate. It is a really fun evening and a benefit for the MVHA.

Volunteers are needed at the MVHA Museum in order to keep the museum open on a timely basis. Call 682-5780, 682-4360, 682-7880 or drop by the museum to sign up.

August meeting will be the Field Trip to the Mining Museum in Silver Star, hopefully close to our regular meeting time. Date, time and other details to be announced by phone committee and Madisonian.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Larry Love
Vice President: Jim Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Mary Ann Alger
Director: Shirley Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Director: Otis Thompson

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Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing Editors: George Sheperd from *The Western Producer*, Sept. 23, 1965
Zoe Todd for Montana Trivia
Dodie Barnett for History Tidbits

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 5 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2007

From the Wagon Seat: The nights are cold, snow is on the mountain tops, there is lots of hunter orange around and the fantastic colors are showing up. Fall has arrived. The MVHA Museum has finished another season with people as far away as Germany, Australia, England and elsewhere viewing our artifacts. I would like to thank Jynean Skank, Mary Ann Alger, Smitty Overstreet and Zoe Todd for a great job as schedulers and a big thank you to all the volunteers who manned the museum. They are the key to keeping the museum open. There were some days that we were not able to be open because of the lack of a volunteer for that day or for even a few hours. Hopefully we can do better next year.

The MVHA is working on our land site. We now have a great well. It is rated at 30 gallons per minute, cold and clear. We are getting a state approved approach put in and will have power put in on a pole. The board is working on getting help to advise us on placement of a building and a future plan. We have some ideas already. If you have additional ideas or different ideas, talk to us or write us a letter.

Any ideas for programs are always welcome. In July the Hutchins Bridge Party was a huge success and \$5000 was donated to the MVHA museum project. A big thank you is in order to all who that helped make this this a success, no matter how small your part may have been. In August Jim Rowe gave a talk on the Rowe Ranch and the Red Bluff Stone House and our field trip to Wall Creek in September was great. Thanks to Smitty Overstreet, Mona Durham and Fred King who stepped up on short notice when the Silver Star trip could not be done. And for October, thanks to Karen Shores for arranging the Committee of the Humanities program with Molly Kruckenberg, Director of the Research Center at the Montana Historical Society and the program on "A taste of Montana: A history of cookbooks and cooking in Montana."

The board would like the MVHA members to become more involved no matter how small a part you might be able to do. This will have to happen if we are going to succeed in our mission statement. The board would like to have as our goal that by spring, we can start working on a building or buildings on our site.

Sometimes a great idea can fail if there is not anyone to implement it. Become involved. In the words of Captains Lewis and Clark, Let us proceed on..... Your wagon master, Larry Love

+++++

History Titbit: Quotes from the '50's" I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now."

"It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so that they can both go to work."

+++++

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

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Cropper, Carroll (I)

5245 South 3600 West
Taylorsville, Utah 06492

Hinman, LeRoy & Jane (F) 682-7775

774 Bergamo
San Jacinto, CA 92583

McAllister, Kay (I) 587-8317

606 South 5th
Bozeman, MT 59715

Paugh, Patsy (I)

Gallatin Co. Rest Home
1221 W. Durston
Bozeman, MT. 59715

Rohrbough, Miriam & Richard (F) 682-3371

(W) 121 Touchstone Ter
Lake Oswego, OR 97025

(S) 23 Big Bend Rd
Cameron, MT 59720

Thexton, Duane & Le (F) 682-4333

337 Varney Road
Ennis, MT 59729

During this past summer the Madison Valley lost one of the old timers. Frank Vetter sent this to the MVHA and Wagon Tongue.

A Tribute to Dick McGuire

by Frank Vetter

Dick and I were first cousins. His mother and my father were sister and brother. The similarities in our two families were somewhat remarkable, as we each grew up with one brother, a house full of older sisters, and one younger sister. We were badly outnumbered, but somehow we managed to survive.

We were classmates in the same sixth grade class, taught by Violet Burns (later Thexton). We both served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and saw action in the Pacific.

Dick loved the Madison Valley. He left the valley briefly on one occasion, but returned after a short absence. He taught school for a while, but soon reverted to the outdoor life that he loved and made a career as a hunting and fishing guide. Just about a year ago, he said to me, "If I had been born somewhere else, I still would have spent my life here in the Madison Valley."

Dick lived and died doing what he loved to do. Who can ask for anything more? To borrow a line or two from a well known motion picture about fly fishing, "In the end, all things converge to one--and a river runs through it." We don't know much about that great land where my cousin Dick has gone--only that which is told to us in the scriptures--but one thing we can be sure of: a river runs through it! He wouldn't have it any other way.

Following is a poem written by Dick when he was a young man. My Mountains

by Dick McQuire

Oh, to leave the crowds behind me,
Leave behind all worry and care,
To seek the sanctuary of my mountains,
And the feeling I get when I'm there.

When again I've journeyed upward,
Savoring every breath of alpine air,
Ah, such splendor! It's the mountains,
And the feeling I get when I'm there.

My majestic mountains all around me,
Vista after vista beyond compare,
Words can't describe the grand elation,
And the feeling I get when I'm there.

When the city life surrounds me,
Life's problems more than I can bear,
Thoughts of my mountains resurrect me,
With the feeling I get when I'm there.

And when my life has ended,
Should I climb to who knows where,
May the path lead me to my mountains,
And the feeling I get when I'm there.

Editor's note: This poem was first published in the Madison Valley Trail and Trials page 961.

Intentionally left blank for the back of the Membership Application.

Ennis Class of '57 holds 50 year reunion

The Ennis class of '57 held their 50 year reunion July 2-4. A dinner and cocktail party was held at the Bill and Karen (Warburton) Dringle home. The class also rode in the parade on the Fourth of July. Members attending: Lois Dames, Karen Warburton, Patty Robison, Hallie Pasley, Mary Frisbie, Richard Coad, Neil Kent, Tom Jones, Bernard Jones, Jack Whitman, and Wayne McDaniel. Unable to attend: Patsy Paugh, Ann Pasley, Mary McAtee, Roy Estes, and Dolly McCollum. Deceased: Bezzie Baker, Martha Carpenter, Grant Cudney, Don Nies, and Jim Etchemendy.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Dougherty and Madeline Scully also joined us.

Submitted by Lois (Daems) Miller

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The Town Crier by Edna M. Schoenek Lay

The year was 1927. My parents had recently bought the Fitzgerald Hotel and six cabins from Frank Fitzgerald and we had moved from our homestead in the Upper Madison Valley (Missouri Flats) to Ennis. I was four years old; my brother, LeRoy, was eight and a half. That property is now called the Lone Elk Mall. Porter Nelson's garage and filling station was directly across the street. None of the streets in Ennis were paved. All of the roads in the Madison Valley were dirt roads.

I was playing alone in the front yard in the shade of two cottonwood trees. My mother had admonished me not to go outside of the yard. All of the school aged children in the community were in grade school or high school that day.

My attention was drawn to a noise up the street. A young man came running down the middle of Main Street yelling as loudly as he could. He was shouting words I did not understand. He kept running east and repeating the sentence over and over. The imprint that this incident left on my young mind was that the young man was very excited and exhilarated, and the message he was telling everyone who could hear him was very important.

The mail was brought to Ennis one a day and delivered to the Post Office around 4:00 or 4:30pm. Mrs. Jenny Chowing was the Postmistress. She sorted the mail and put it in people's boxes. The newspaper, the Montana Standard published in Butte, was distributed along with letters the day after the young man made his run.

The important news was in the paper-- "CHARLES LINDBERGH HAD FLOWN ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN NONSTOP AND LANDED SAFELY IN PARIS".

He was the first person to accomplish this amazing feat. Everyone who read the news was excited. And they told the folks who didn't get the newspaper. It seemed like the whole town was excitedly talking about this event.

My parents explained the news to me and my brother. I recalled that these words were the words the young runner was shouting. In time I

came to realize that the young man had heard the news on the radio somewhere in Ennis. (I think there were very few radios in Ennis in 1927.) Most of the people got the news the next day from the newspaper. And it was one of the most important events in aviation history. The young man had voluntarily assumed the role of "THE TOWN CRIER" for five or ten minutes in our little town of Ennis.

I do not know the young man's name. If any of you who are reading this article ever heard of this event and if you know who he was, please send the name to the MVHA or the Wagon Tongue and it can be published in a future issue.

Addendum: Years later as an adult I was in the St. Louis Airport as a passenger between planes. In the central area of the building there was a small airplane suspended from the ceiling from wires and cables. I walked to get closer and on the side of the plane was printed: "The Spirit of St. Louis". I was amazed and mildly shocked by the small size of the plane. Then I saw a plaque on the wall. I moved closer and read it. It was indeed the plane that Lindbergh made his world famous flight in from an airfield on Long Island, N.Y. to Paris. I thought of the runner in Ennis and his excitement. I wondered how that little plane could carry enough gasoline to fly that far.

More years passed and I saw the movie, "The Spirit of St. Louis", the story of the famous flight with James Stewart playing the part of Lindbergh. Five business men in St. Louis put up the the money to have the plane built, and thus it was named. It was explained how the plane was designed with multiple gas tanks. Lindbergh and two men in San Diego planned it and built it, an amazing example of American ingenuity!

More years passed and I saw the "Spirit of St. Louis" in the Smithsonian Building displaying the History of Flight, in Washington, D.C. It had been moved from St. Louis.

+++++ The Madison Valley lost a very incredible woman in late summer and the following article will be printed in the memory of this woman, **Olive Losee**.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE GALLERY AND POT SHOP Compiled by Minnie Paugh from interviews with Fannie Aaberg and Olive Losee.

The School House Gallery and Pot Shop provides an outlet for the artists and craftsmen in the Madison Valley Community. An increasing number of local people have been doing paintings, water colors, and sculpture in talc, metal and wood since they have been able to get instruction during the winter from individual artists and from the Montana Institute of the Arts, usually referred to as the MIA. During the summer tourists have been buying the local arts and crafts in preference to mass produced souvenirs. Everything is produced by a Montana artist or craftsman, and is sold on consignment.

(Continued on page 4)

School House Gallery and Pot Shop continued from page 3.

The shop is open from May through December. Olive leases it on a commission basis. Terry Wilkins, the niece of Dr. Gene C. Wilkins, had it for one season; May McConochie, Olive's sister from Middletown, Connecticut, has had it for two. The Gallery is used for art shows and makes a rallying place where visiting artists can give instruction. A favorite instructor is Ray Campeau of Bozeman who is from the Bozeman City Schools. A third use of the Gallery is to provide equipment and art supplies. The potters especially need to share their kiln.

The School House Gallery was opened by Olive Losee in 1971. The Pot Shop started later as a result of the work of Fannie Aaberg and Rick (Rachael) Vujovich.

Olive Losee, who really made the center possible is the wife of Dr. Ronald Losee, the orthopedic surgeon. She had long been interested in the development of a culture center. She favored a library more than a craft center, and tried to acquire a little store building on Main Street beside Moores Creek. She did not want to involve enough money to take the pleasure from the enterprise, nor did she want public help. Almost by chance she earned the kind of money she wanted.

Olive is a graduate nurse with a great deal of practical experience. She was also extremely interested in the moving picture industry although not all all interested in becoming an actress herself. When the moving picture production crew for "The Little Big Man" used Virginia City as one of their production sites, they were required to have a nurse on their set whenever they were working. Since they could not find a nurse in the community, Dr. Losee called Olive back from a vacation she was having with her family in Connecticut. She returned partly as a service to the community, and partly for the experience. It was a work experience all the way. The bus for the production crew picked her up at 5:45 am. along with the crew who were housed at the Sportsman Lodge in Ennis. They all came home after the shooting was over--possibly at 8:00 in the evening. Olive saved the money she earned and invested it in Walt Disney stock which was an excellent investment.

The Gallery building has been located in Ennis for years. It had been used as the Cameron School which was near the highway south of Cameron. It was moved to Ennis about 1940 and was used as a private dwelling while it fell into disrepair. By 1970 it was a community eyesore and a source of water pollution. The building was always attractive, and when it was placed on the market, Olive bought it with her savings. She says she did it because of "being environmentally concerned and hoping to set a good example of how a little cleaning up, landscaping, and paint can improve 4

a small corner of the community."

Olive got busy. She bought an old truck, put on a surgical mask and long protective rubber gloves and cleaned away the accumulated debris of a lifetime. Soon Fannie Aaberg and Rick Vujovich were working with her. They wanted to become financial partners, but Olive thought they should all do their own thing. She still did not know for sure what she wanted to do with the building. Fannie and Rick were already taking lessons in ceramics at the Ketterer Art Center in Bozeman and knew they wanted a pot shop. They rented the shed beside the Gallery for their pottery equipment. When they learned that the old building was too loosely constructed to hold heat during the winter, they rented Jack Smith's garage. When his estate is settled, they may have to move, and they and Olive would like to acquire the VFW Hall for a more complete culture center. Neither the Pot Shop or the Gallery can now be adequately heated during the winter. The potters use a barrel stove which burns wood, with a small backup oil burner to supplement it at night.

Several MIA interest groups would like to share a culture center. The MIA art group included Peggy Todd and Janet McAtee. The music group which centers around Faye Watkins, Bobby Brand, and Jean Hanson, has already produced recordings.

In the summer of 1974 Olive's School House Gallery sponsored two programs. The MIA Little Festival drew artists from several communities together and permitted local people to see demonstrations by Ennis craftsman as well as visiting artists. The Gallery sold much of its stock to the visitors. Olive sponsored a showing of "Shakespeare in the Parks" which is produced by the drama club at MSU and is funded by the Montana Arts Council. An audience of 200 people viewed this full length play which was presented on Olive's vacant lot south of the Gallery. In 1973 this program attracted only 80 people, which suggests more people are becoming aware of the facility.

The pot shop is independent of the School House Gallery, although the Gallery is their sales outlet. After Fannie and Rick got their basic training in ceramics, they considered means by which they could finance the purchase of their kiln and other major pottery equipment. They decided to try putting on an antique auction.

The auction took a lot of thought and work. Antique junk was systematically located all over the valley with great care to use the resources closest to Fannie and Rick's home ranches. They searched for old dumps wherever a home-stead cabin may have been located. They found many things in the coolies and draws on Bear Creek and on the Sun Ranch. Leonard McAtee at the Cameron Store let them search the old McAtee dumps. Rick went into the Antelope Basin.

(Continued on page 5)

The School House Gallery and Pot Shop (cont. from page 4)

They were looking for objects which might be converted into rustic looking planters and other conglomerate decorations. They drew their friends and relatives into their game. Husbands fretted about having to haul their treasures back to the dump after the sale. Such thoughts caused them to season the collection with some genuine antiques which they considered real value; for example, a still from the prohibition era. They put in practical items such as second hand mattresses, sofas, and baled hay from the Vujovich Ranches.

They had attractive hand bills made for advertising and spread them over the neighboring towns in the Ruby Valley and in Bozeman. They mailed the handbills to people they thought would be interested. They also bought a notice in the Madisonian and had time on the Bozeman radio station.

The crowd who came to their sale startled and delighted them. It ranged from the antique dealers to the long haired communities in Virginia City and Bozeman. The later group bought all the mattresses and clothes such as a suitcase full of army uniforms. Antique dealers and buffs were delighted with the artistic garage. This junk sold sometimes without reason, because the genuine antiques were the least popular items, although the fine old still they had found twisted among willows and weeds where it had once produced moonshine sold to Jack Vujovich for \$190. The hay brought a good price because good hay is hard to locate in May.

People seemed to really want such things as the old horse shoes, crushed buckets, and wooden nail kegs that Sandy McClune and Barry Bowersox helped them find around Meadow Creek. They had salted boxes of near trash with a few interesting items and these sold. Bleached bones made most collections look good to buyers. Rick had used an old brooder reflector to center such material attractively as a patio decoration. This may have suggested the use for the mixed boxes. They even sold an old telephone box garnished with apple green paint and bastardized with a modern dial phone type receiver.

The auction cleared \$1,100. This bought their kiln and the other supplies to start producing pottery for the Gallery. They have a large electric kiln and four potting wheels. They do attractive bowls and traditional things, but get pleasure from beads, pendants, patio chains and other wall hangings that sell well from the Gallery. These decorations can be primitive hand forms which are easy to do while visiting. Fannie and Rick find their production problem is finding the time to fire the kiln to complete their pottery. They enjoy their hobby and like to share it with others, but it is apt to be a master potter who does the demonstrating for the public at events such as the MIA Little Festival.

These three people have created a little cultural center for the community through their initiative

and hard work. As Olive says "we made our little dream come alive." They now enjoy a sense of pride that they did it themselves with the encouragement from their spouses.

Editor's note: The School House Gallery and Pot Shop located at 202 1st St. continued for a number of years. Then Brent Warburton used it as a potting business until Lois and Chrissy Saier rented the building in about 1979 for their business as the Plant and Flower Shop. (article taken from The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community by Minnie Paugh and donated to MVHA by Katherine Armitage)

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Continuing Montana Trivia: Get your Montana Atlas or Road Map out. Find the Montana town that best fits each clue. The past issues were limited to towns close to the Madison Valley or mainly in S. Central Mt. Now the whole state is fair game!!

1. Ancient Greek wreath worn by heroes.
2. A closing for clothes with a D instead of a B.
3. Easy chair
4. Abundance of timber
5. A famous cannery
6. To hit a girl
7. Sugared hay
8. A wild animal and a place to stay
9. A famous composer
10. A Breezy piece of meat
11. To take a trophy
12. A brand of cigarettes
13. A small boy friend
14. An oven
15. A kind of tree

Answers printed in next issue of Wagon Tongue and available at the November MVHA meeting.

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Old McAllister Post Office Safe donated to MVHA

The MVHA Museum recently acquired the safe from the old McAllister Post Offices. This safe was passed down from post master to postmaster and housed at the various post office locations..usually in someone's house..until it was no longer needed at the permanent location in McAllister. While MVHA members visited with Wayne Johnson who donated the safe, they learned that there were Post Offices at Washington Bar and Meadow Creek. From Names on the Face of Montana by Roberta Cheney, we learned that Washington Bar had a post office July 1884-1896. George Cope was the original postmaster. Later, Esther Pinckney also served. Washington Bar was a mining camp of the gold rush days. Meadow Creek had a post office opened in 1869 with Waity Walton in charge; the office served the area later taken over by McAllister. The Meadow Creek office closed in 1883 and reopened 1886-1908. Ranches in the area ranged from the Tobacco Root Mountains to Ennis Lake. McAllister Post Office was established in 1902 with Davis Lindsay as first postmaster.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Dreams, Dust and Depression by Philip S. Long

A story of the depression in Montana in 1929 written by Walter Long's nephew and Lucille Wellman and Ethelyn Hubner's cousin. Copies available at local libraries.

So Long Cowboys of the Open Range by

Truman McGriffin Cheney with Roberta Cheney
Three copies available at Madison Valley Public Library and Thompson-Hickman Library in V.C. as well as many libraries around the state.

Looking Ahead

November 8 4:00 pm Don Black of Jeffers and Great Falls will speak on the Sedition Act and some colorful Madison Valley characters who were involved at that time.
First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room*.

December 14 4:00pm Annual Christmas Party
Speaker yet to be confirmed. First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room*.

January 11, 2008 4:00pm Gary Forney speaking on his latest research and book. First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room*.

* If you arrive after 4:15 or so and doors are locked go to the drive in teller and they will unlock door for you. There is an elevator for handicap access and drop off can be made as close to the door as possible in the drive in lane.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice President: Jim Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Mary Ann Alger

Director: Shirley Love

Director: Smitty Overstreet

Director: Otis Thompson

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be January 2008.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing Editors:

Lois Daems Miller Ennis Class of '57

Edna M. Schoenek Lay "Town Crier"

Minnie Paugh The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community for the "School House Galley and Pot Shop"

Zoe Todd "Montana Trivia"

Frank Vetter "A Tribute to Dick McGuire"

Roberta Cheney Names on the Face of Montana

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2008

From the Wagon Seat: Happy, healthy New Year 2008. The Madison River gorge reached the bridge and is above town on January 2. History keeps repeating itself! Work continues on our future museum. The MVHA Board is working on getting permission from the landowner to the east on sharing the approach and to take electricity off of the power pole which is on their land. After all this is done we can get our approach to the museum site done. The board is working on starting the forge building. Thanks to Larry Keifer, we have the architectural plans made to code for the forge building. We plan to implement these plans in the spring. When the weather gets a little nicer, we will work on the perk test and the drain field. Hopefully by late spring we will have our definite plans. The MVHA will need to have everyone's help on this project so if you can help on any phase of this project in anyway, contact a board member.

Another project announced at the December meeting is putting together a cookbook of the many old treasured recipes in the Madison Valley. The MVHA is depending on your input to put together this cook book for future sale. See the information form on page 5 of this newsletter. Don't forget that we have done the second printing of the Early Days of Madison Valley by Jimmy Spray and have copies for sale.

The board would like to give a big thank you to everyone who helped the association in anyway during 2007. This includes some of our families and friends who are not members but are supporters.

The board still needs suggestions for programs that you would like to have at monthly meetings. For 2008 we need a chairperson and committee to head up a fundraising effort to raise needed funds for building the proposed museum. Several board members are meeting with the county grant writer to get started on writing grants and interested members are invited to join in this endeavor. At the annual meeting in May, we will be electing a couple of board member to fill expired terms. Please think about participating in your organization by being a board member. The MVHA and the board will be needing your help during 2008, so plan on stepping forward and helping out. Let us proceed on. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

History Tidbits. Dr. Mae Pankey was the Madison Valley resident who became the first woman dentist in Montana. Madison Valley resident, Paul Tillinger, was a trapeze artist for the Ringling Brothers Circus. The Tikker and Donna Jones place is an old Madison Valley school house that has been moved 4 times over the decades. William Chaloner, Madison Valley native, became the most famous cowboy of North Dakota. During the 1940's, M. A. Chuck Switzer was the oldest licensed driver in Montana at age 87. Dr. T. B. Marquis was the coach of the Madison Valley Antelopes in the 1910's. Otto Coss made the first merry-go-round in the Madison Valley. History tidbits provided by MVHA member, Don Black

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____) Student \$5.00 (____) Individual \$10.00 (____) Family \$15.00 (____) Business \$50.00 (____) Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the October 2007 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. If you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print you a complete updated list of members.

King, Fred (I)

1400 South 19th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Paugh, Robert J and Barbara A. (F)

2384 West Beall Street 1
Bozeman, MT 59718-3106

Walker, Eric and Elizabeth (F)

11433 James Grant Drive
El Paso, TX 79936

Membership Update

Please check your address label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your next membership is due. Your membership is good for one full year from the date that you purchase your membership. If you attend meetings and pick up your Wagon Tongue there, you may ask Smitty or Shirley and they will look up your due date.

On Nov. 23, 2007, the Madison Valley and the MVHA lost long time member, Donald O. Thexton. His son, Duane, shared the following story.

Don Thexton-Montana Moses

Don loved socializing and enjoyed talking to everyone, be they an Ennis native, or people who traveled from around the world to fish on the Madison River. His favorite story was being the "Montana Moses" by leading fishermen stranded in a boat on Spring Creek back to the promised land of the main channel of the Madison River. Following is an excerpt from the story written by one of the participants, a story which was sent to Don as a "thank you". Don shared the story with everyone during the last years of his life. (continued next column)

"...Let's anchor the boat, take a walk down there and take a look." Sure enough, we confirmed it was a diversion dam for local irrigation purposes (for the Valley Garden Ditch, about 1/2 mile from Don's house). It had posts sticking up from it every five or six feet and the water was lightly spilling over. Below it was a 4-foot drop. On our left bank, a bluff rose about 100 feet. On our right, a grassy island stretched about three-quarters of a mile to the main branch of the Madison River. The dam was cemented on both sides, with no way to pull the boat around it. We were trapped tight.

Therefore, we climbed the bluff and found a fenced pasture. We took a little walk along a fence back up the stream. We looked for a low spot, or a ravine and some vehicle access. We found a big old stone house (Thexton Ranch House) upstream but no one was home. I noticed another house further up the road (Don's house), so we went to check it out. I knocked on the door and shortly a distinguished looking old gentleman came to the door. He was ramrod straight, over six feet tall, bald as a cue ball. Without any introductions, I said, "Guess why we are here?" And he laughed. "I suppose you must be stuck at the dam." he said. "Happens a couple times a year." I didn't see the humor. "We have a drift boat stuck down there. Is there any way you know to help us?" I inquired. "Have you tried to drag it around?" he asked. I said, "No way to get around those cement corners." He laughed again and said, "Well, I forgot about those. Been a while since I've been down there. Let me get my coat and hat and we will go down and take a look."

Up came the garage door and out he drove in his old Ford Explorer. "Hop in", he said. As we arrived at the bluff overlooking the dam, he got out of the car, put on his Stetson hat, and assembled his collapsible staff, which he explained he has needed since he had problems with his legs. He was an imposing figure looking down at the dam.

(Continued on page 3)

Space intentionally left blank for the back of the membership application.

Don Thexton-Montana Moses cont from page 2
"Why don't you just push the boat over?" he asked.
"What makes you think that will work, especially with those posts sticking up and not much water going over the dam?" I asked. He laughed again, "Well eventually everybody ends up doing that. You will be the first ones in 80 years who don't do it. Never seen it done with a drift boat though. Go down and take a look. You can remove one of the boards in the dam to increase the flow."

Mike reached down and tried one of the boards and to our surprise, it moved. We figured we just might be able to move it away and sure enough, we did. Immediately the flow over the dam increased. We measured the distance between the posts so we could check to see if the boat would squeeze between the posts. We slowly positioned the boat between the posts and gave it a nudge. It glided over just as gracefully as a stag leaps a fence. I glanced up and saw the old guy, standing tall, staff in hand, on the bluff above us. "Looks like Moses", I thought.

As we reflected on our experience, we were grateful that we didn't have to ask for help in Ennis where we knew that they would get a big laugh at two out-of-towners who got stuck in Spring Creek at the Valley Garden Diversion Dam. We were especially grateful to Moses for parting the waters, showing us the way to the Promised Land, and for giving us the advice and encouragement to make the journey. He probably is still laughing..."

SAGACIOUS BRONCHO by Charles W. Hutton
(Editor's note-The following story is written by C.W. Hutton of Libby. Mr. Hutton lived through much of the early history and writes in an entertaining manner of those stirring days. This story is one of his own experiences. Published in *Western News*, Oct. 11, 1934 (XXXIV, No 19)

It was back in the early eighties, and I was just 20 years of age in December. It was also in the latter part of that month when I was returning from a brief stay with friends in the Gallatin valley, to my bachelor home in the valley of the Madison River, which contributes their bounteous flood to the headwaters of the Missouri in the south and western part of Montana.

In order that I might complete my journey of 60 miles before nightfall, I must slacken the pull at my pony's reins and let him travel a little faster. He was a hardy, half wild broncho, and his smooth shod hoofs had clattered rhythmically and unceasingly under his springing gallop over the hard mountain roads since the first appearance of the rising sun that morning, and he was still doing his utmost to quicken his rate of speed, for he was quite desirous of the comfort of his warm stable as I was for the positive cheer that my log cabin and its open fireplace had never failed to impart.

The weather was subzero and the sky was

clear. On either side of the sun's disc appeared a bright light, tinged with the colors of the spectrum, indicating that the following evening and the next day were to be exceedingly cold.

I drew up at the cabin of an old-time prospector, whom I asked if there were any trails leading over a high ridge, by which I might make a short cut to the place at my journey's end.

"Hurry home on the main highway an' git ready for a beastly cold night!" was the answer that did not all free my mind from suspense. Being, in some degree, stocky in bodily structure, he quite occupied the space within his doorway, and was smoking a pipe that seemed to have been of long duration. However, I envied the man the perfect satisfaction he seemed to derive from its use, in spite of the presence of nicotine within its bowl and stem evidenced by an odor, not fit to mix with that of the rose, in the air about, and the dark blue smoke shooting forth in reaction and spiral fashion from its bowl.

"Do you see them sun dogs up thar?" he asked, pointing the moist end of his pipe toward the sun.

"I can see them," I said, and I can still see them with all their vivid brightness--even with my eyes closed.

"Say young man," he responded after taking three vigorous puffs at his pipe, "I know you're a pilgrim in the country; you don't speak good old United States like we old timers do, an' because your're a pilgrim is just why you don't want to take no short cuts 'cross country. You'd git onto an elk trail that would lead you to--God knows whar."

I accepted the old man's advice and reined my pony back into the road when his restless spirit seemed greatly relieved, and already his feet were beating fast and yet faster upon the hard ground when I heard a call at my back which I took to be slightly overbearing. I brought my pony to a sudden standstill. The impetuous little animal flicked his ears back angrily, as though he himself had had quite enough of the old man's diatribe

"Hey!" he called again, even after I had turned my pony around and was looking at him. "The crossing of the Madison at Ennis is going to be bad for you. The bridge is all right but I doubt that you can git to it. The river is gorged above with ice, an' water is runnin' all over the country on this side an' freezin' over. A narrow ravine you'll have to cross near the bridge is running full of water. It's all froze over by this time an' I reckon if you try crossin' that ravine on the ice, you'd better watch your step or it's good-bye to you an' your buzzard."

He had given my hardy, half-wild brute of the hills and prairies a name that was not at all to my liking. "Buzzard" is a name in the West, applied to any stupid, dead-on-his-feet sort of horse, and I feel that it should be known that my untamed beast was worthy of special regard--for his high spirit, his courage and his power of endurance. (continued pg 4)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MADISON VALLEY HISTORY ASSOCIATION AND PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY

As evident from the October cookbook gathering, many local residents have cooking treasures that inform of the past and bring new light to today's recipes and cooking.

We propose developing a special cookbook for that purpose.

This book will contain these elements and design format.

- * Photos of the recipe contributors
- * Biography and relevant cooking/history stories or anecdotes from contributors
- * Replica or copy of original recipes
- * Renewed recipes updated by Amanda with currently available ingredients
- * Photos of prepared dishes

Once completed, this cookbook can be sold in local shops, at museums, through Chamber of Commerce, and over the Internet. This cookbook will serve to publicize the history and stories of MadisonValley cooks and chefs. It will enable tourists to carry home a local treasure from their visit. Proceeds will benefit the Madison Valley History Association.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE old family recipes, stories, new recipes, interesting short anecdotes or stories about history and cooking. Tell us things like when your ancestors/family came to Montana?? How did your grandparents obtain staples, garden, preserve, cook, celebrate?? How do you do these things now?? Do you have historic cookbooks?

Return this questionnaire and/or call and we'll come out to interview you (probably in the spring when Shay returns from teaching)

Committee:

Karen Shores.....MVHA coordinator and research.

Shay Sayer...professor marketing & textbook author ...(if not comfortable with writing, tell your story to her and she'll write it up)

Amanda Strolin...Culinary Institute of America, certified chef

Shelly LeFerre and Bob Celecia..... professional photographers

Your name _____ Phones _____

address _____

E mail _____ best time to contact you _____

Please copy this questionnaire from the Wagon Tongue and write additional information on reverse side. Copy and distribute these questionnaires to everyone you know who might have an interest. For more information contact the following: Submit your Questionnaire to the following:

Karen Shores --- 682-4935 cell 431-0714

15 Carkeek Lake

Cameron, Mt. 59720 email... kshores@3rivers.net

Shay Sayre--- 949-939-1299

43 Hilltop trail

Ennis Mt. 59720

shaysayre@cox.net

Amanda Strolin ---- 682-5238 cell 714-273-9283

90 Diamond Back road

Ennis, Mt. 59729

amanda@ 3rivers.net

Montana Trivia Part 4 Montana is a huge state and there are lots of clues. If you find an answer to any clue that you feel is just as good as the given answer please share and we will add yours to the trivia. Get your Montana maps out! Here are 15 more. Answers will be at February meeting and printed in April Wagon Tongue.

1. A fortified place
2. To separate
3. A medicated pool
4. A crippled wild animal
5. A famous president
6. A kind of berry
7. Widest
8. A greater amount
9. Alley Oop's girl friend
10. An animal steam
11. A kind of sheep
12. Many lads
13. A wide sight
14. A shape with no beginning and no end
15. A black bird's bureau

Looking ahead The editor needs names and authors of good books you have read about Montana or about history for the **For Your Reading Pleasure** column.

February 14 4:00pm. **First Madison Valley Bank** Meeting room. John Ellingson to speak

March 13 Daylight savings time starts March 9 so meeting time goes to **7:00pm. Location TBA** March 17 is Founder of Ennis, William Ennis', birthday and MVHA would like to honor him at our monthly meeting. Any ideas for a program, location, event ?

April 10 7:00pm Location, and program TBA

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice President: Jim Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Mary Ann Alger

Director: Shirley Love

Director: Smitty Overstreet

Director: Otis Thompson

Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be April 2008.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing Editors:

Duane Thexton *Don Thexton Montana Moses*

Jeff Jeffers *Sagacious Broncho* by C. W. Hutton

Zoe Todd "Montana Trivia"

Don Black History Tidbits

The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474

Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2008

From the Wagon Seat: Transition is in the making again. The sandhill cranes are back, the meadowlarks are singing, the blue herons are checking out their rookery nests, the geese are pairing off, blue birds have been sighted, red wing blackbirds are back in flocks and the snow birds are on their way back from the South. Spring is here and the MVHA is awaiting some challenges.

The challenges that face the MVHA are very important one if we are to continue to meet our mission statement. The board and your members need your help in the following areas:

1. Serve on the board of directors and become an officer
- 2.. Help plan programs or do a program yourself
3. Serve on a building committee for building the forge and museum building
4. Serve on the nominating committee
5. Serve on a fundraising committee to organize and promote our fundraising projects
6. Serve as a scheduler for the museum for a month or two
7. Be a volunteer at the museum a couple of times a month
8. Help get recipes and stories for our cook book project
9. Promote and help sell copies of Early Days in the Madison Valley by Jimmie Spray
10. Attend meetings and field trips
11. Write or submit an article for the Wagon Tongue
12. Encourage people in the community to become an active member or supporter of the MVHA to help preserve the rich history of the Madison Valley
13. Help on a grant writing committee
14. Help out with the actual building of the museum...hammering, sawing, pouring cement, etc.
15. Volunteer to be chairperson or member of the Float committee
16. Let us know of anyone you know who would be a good contractor for building the museum
17. Help out with the oral histories. Older Madison Valley folks are passing on before we get histories.
18. Always keep in mind the the MVHA is a 501C3 non-profit organization and think of the MVHA when making a Memorial contribution or a donation for a worthy cause

This is just a short list of items that come to my mind as the MVHA looks into the future. No one person can do all of the above but you can pick out one or maybe two things that you can do to help. With your help, the MVHA will preserve and save the history of the Madison Valley.

Let a board member know what you can do for the MVHA and they will get you on the committee and actively working. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

History Tidbit Lawrence Jeffers and Lawrence Rose caught the famous Madison Valley Albino Skunk. What ever happened to this famous skunk? Tidbit by Don Black

+++++

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January 2008 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. If you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list .

Brenneke, Marty and Kevin(Williams) (F)

35 Cottonwood Lane
Ennis. MT 59729
682-3742

Brown, Jane (I)

P.O. Box 60
Ennis, MT 59729 (winter)
P.O. Box 92
GlenAllen, AK 99588 (summer)
907-82-5520

Grace, Stan (I)

3365 Tizer Rd.
Helena, MT 59602
443-0093

Hayden, Jim (I)

912 Ahoy Apt. A
Billings, MT 59105-0173
252-5568

Membership Update

Please check your address label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your next membership is due. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased your membership. If you attend meetings and pick up your Wagon Tongue there rather than have it mailed to you, you may ask Smitty or Shirley and they will look up your date. Thank you for supporting the MVHA.

^^

The MVHA lost a former member and the Madison Valley lost a long time resident on January 25,2008 when Catherine Armitage passed away. This article is exerpted from the **Progressive Years Madison County, Montana Volume II** page 806-7 and is printed in Catherine's memory. Catherine Emma Potter was born Nov. 10, 1911 in Missoula, Montana, the only child of Jesse Alfonso and Clara Barbara Potter. They lived on their homestead near Arlee, Montana until WWI. (continued next column)

Shortly after Catherine started first grade, Potters moved to Camden, New Jersey where Jesse was a chemical plant foreman. War over, they built their home in Missoula. Catherine graduated from Missoula County High School in 1930.

The Potters traveled the USA and Canada. While attending the University of Montana, Catherine played cello in the university and civic symphonies. She entertained groups with her musical ability and declamations.

After graduating in 1934 with an English major and music minor, Catherine taught at several small Montana schools before coming to Virginia City in 1939, boarding with John Tolsons. Miss Potter's mother imagined her daughter would marry a rich Virginia City lawyer, but Catherine jested that she would rather marry a rancher.

When called for jury duty, Bill Armitage stayed with Tolsons, longtime friends of the Armitages. Jest became reality when Catherine and Bill married on June 12, 1941. They continued to live in the ranch house built in the 1890's and use the horse barn which was raised in 1914.

Bill and Catherine were Eastern Star members. Catherine has spent extensive volunteer hours with Rainbow, 4-H, Red Cross, and Madison Valley and Montana Woman's Clubs. Even her grandchildren knew "Grandma is at the Nearly New on Friday. (Woman's Club Thrift Shop)

Catherine has devoted her share to the ranch--cooking for hired men, feeding bum lambs, giving financial and especially moral support.

Creativity is Catherine's forte. She believes the only reason you can't create something is because you haven't tried and seldom made anything without adding personal changes to the directions. She had all of patience with her children, taking time at Christmas time to help them make gifts. Besides whistling while working and playing the piano, Catherine enjoyed sewing, needlework, weaving, painting and other crafts. Her homemade bread is remembered by ranch visitors. When young her children thought it a treat to have "boughten bread" because they ate homemade bread everyday. Written by Martha Armitage Klauman, daughter of Catherine Armitage.

Space intentionally left blank for the back of the membership application

Ennis, Montana founding father celebration

During the March 13, 2008 MVHA meeting the birthday of William Ennis who was born on March 17, 1828 was celebrated. Behind every successful man, you will find an equally important woman.

Katherine Shriver Ennis was this woman and it is appropriate that in our April issue of the Wagon Tongue we acknowledge her as she was born on April 2, 1835 in Columbiana County, Ohio, the daughter of John and Rachel Summer Shriver. She lived on the farm of her parents while attending public school in Oneida. In 1861, she and William Ennis were married in Oneida. Mr. Ennis was at that time freighting into Pikes Peak Colorado. Mrs. Ennis accompanied him on some of his trips.

In March to 1863, Mrs. Ennis returned to her father's home while Mr. Ennis prepared to go to Bannack, Idaho Territory, to the gold diggings with freight. He sold his ranch and small store in Colorado loaded up with about 80 tons of freight and came West, arriving about June 10, 1863.

Mr. Ennis filed on a homestead in the Madison Valley on August 13, 1863, the exact day that his wife gave birth to their first child, a daughter Jeannie Winifred, in Ohio. He built a one room cabin on the homestead, and in 1865 brought his family to Alder Gulch. The first winter, Mrs. Ennis taught school in Virginia City. In 1866 they moved to the cabin on the Madison, where a son, William John, was born on January 29, 1867.

In 1872, Mr. and Mrs. Ennis took their children and accompanied by the family of William I. Marshall, went on horseback to see the wonders of Yellowstone National Park. The two Ennis children rode double. As far as it is known, they were the first white children in the Park.

In 1868 a four room log house was moved from Virginia City for a more roomy home. This house had two stories, and a "lean-to" was added for a kitchen. Mrs. Ennis often kept large amounts of money for Mr. Ennis. She hollowed out a place in the log wall, put the money in, and pasted paper over the place, so it looked just like the rest of the wall.

In 1881 and 1882, the Ennises built a large home of 13 rooms, with 11 foot ceilings. Mrs. Ennis designed the building, which had a large masonry cellar beneath the kitchen. A hand driven well supplied water, with a pump in the kitchen. Materials for this home were hauled from Franklin, Idaho, as well as the fine furniture that furnished the five bedrooms, parlor, sitting room and dining room. The house burned in 1917, but some of the furniture downstairs was saved. (Editor's note. The Ennis house was located on the land now occupied by the Ennis Homestead house and cabins.)

Mrs. Ennis was confirmed into the Episcopal Church, the church of her husband, and was a charter member of Trinity Guild. The ministers who came to hold services in the valley were most often her guests; but preachers, or ministers, of any 3

denomination were welcome in her home. She was an excellent cook and a fine seamstress and needle worker. Her dining room table was always covered with a linen cloth, hand hemmed, yet she could do most any of the ranch tasks, and did, if occasion required it.

One neighbor told of coming to visit and finding Mrs. Ennis out in the corral, holding a horse's head to the ground, which Mr. Ennis had thrown in order to get some part of the breaking harness on.

On many occasions Mrs. Ennis served as a midwife and helped nurse the sick.

Mrs. Ennis was widowed in 1898. She continued to run the part of the ranch that Mr. Ennis willed to her. She was a woman of true pioneer spirit, and nothing daunted her. She was not afraid of Indians and some who made regular trips through the valley were her friends. She loved to milk a cow and in spite of entreaties by her family, she kept a cow until she broke her hip, when on a visit to Washington in 1919. The doctors were amazed that the hip began to knit. She was not put into a cast, and was able to massage her hip, which she did with regularity and when allowed to return home by train, she sat on a straight chair as was transferred from train to train, as necessary. In a few months, she was on crutches, which she used for about a year. She was able to use a cane around the house, or on a level walk. Eventually, she walked with just a cane, but that leg was a trifle shorter.

She was a long time member of the Society of Montana Pioneers and attended the yearly meetings if at all possible. On her birthday, she held open house, assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Chowning, and niece, Mrs. Hattie Angle. She liked to meet the new school teachers especially.

She donated land for the school, Methodist Church, Forest Service Buildings on Hugel Street and the V.F. W. Buildings.

Mrs. Ennis attended the Pioneer meeting in August 1931. Her death followed on November 4, at the age of 96.

Written by granddaughter, Winifred C. Jeffers.

Story taken from **Pioneer Trails and Trials,**

Madison County, Montana (Editor's note: Mrs. Ennis donated to the city of Ennis, the land on Main Street commonly referred to as the "Gazebo Park" but now named in her honor as "Grandma Ennis Park".

+++++
Quotes from the 50's "Their music drives me wild. That 'Rock Around the Clock' thing is nothing but racket." "I am afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying "Damn" in 'Gone with the Wind', it seems like every movie has a 'hell' or 'damn' in it. "Do you suppose television will ever reach our part of the country?" "Pretty soon you won't be able to buy a good 10 cent cigar." Quotes taken from *Montana Senior News* August/September 2004

The MVHA has completed the second printing of the **Early Days in the Madison Valley** By James S. Spray and have copies of the book available for sale. Cost is \$18.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Orders and check can be sent to MVHA, P. O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 58729. Mother's Day & Father's Day are coming and this makes a great gift for a pioneer parent or relative. Proceeds from the sale of the book go to the building fund for the future Madison Valley History Museum.

Jimmy Spray was an interesting person and the **Short Sketch of My Education by Jimmie Spray. January 22, 1875-August 1, 1956** taken from his book gives you some insight into this author.

If I tell briefly how I obtained what little knowledge I have, you will not only have a little more history of the Madison Valley, but you will also realize some of my difficulties in writing this history and excuse some its deficiencies.

My father's name was James H. Spray. He was born in Ohio, in the year 1829. He married my mother, whose maiden name was Anna L Newcomm, in Missouri. Mother had been born in _____, _____ in 1835.

My father was very much opposed to having his children educated, and he would not let me go to school until I was nine years old. This was in the summer of 1884, and my first teacher was John C. Mahoney.

Mr. Mahoney must have had a terrible time with me at first. One afternoon he asked me to tell him what state we live in. I shook my head dumbfounded. My sister, Martha, made a noise to call my attention, and when I looked at her, she was spreading her hands out and then not only trying to put her head between them, but also her whole body. She was trying to make me think of her middle name which was "Montana". "Come, Jimmie, can't you think?" asked Mr. Mahoney. I was getting pretty nervous, and Martha's actions made it worse.

"It is Missouri," I finally said. "What made you think that?" asked the surprised teacher. "Because my father said that when he left Missouri he left the states." I answered meekly. "Well, then, tell me tomorrow what state Sam Smith came from." said Mr. Mahoney, laughing.

On our way home from school my sister said, "Jimmie, I was trying to make you think of my middle name." "What's a girl's name got to do with it?" I asked. Hattie Smith was with us, and her name was Hattie May, so I asked if there was a state by the name of "May". All they would do was laugh, and I thought I had caught on, really thinking there was a state by the name of May.

I knew Sam Smith's name was Samuel Richard, so the next morning when my class was called to recite and Mr. Mahoney said, "Well, Jimmie, what state did Same Smith come from?" I was very prompt to reply, "Richard". "No", he said, shaking his had. I looked at Martha to see if she was trying to help me but she was sitting there with a delighted smile on her face. Mahoney saw I was in hot water, and he told me it was Michigan and instructed me to tell the name of another state the next day. I had often heard my father say that Sam Smith came from England, so that evening while my brother Jack was chopping the evening's wood and Martha was standing near, I asked him if Montana were the

Martha and Martha looked at him and neither said a word. My mother told me the names of several states, and I remembered them all, and the next day was able to tell the teacher the names of a dozen states.

My father was so bitterly opposed to education that he wouldn't buy us any school books. Mr. Mahoney gave me a primer. This gave the names of the letters, and a few short words. Pretty soon I caught on to the sounds of the letters and how they should be run together. After that I did all right.

My mother died in the spring of 1885, and my father would not send me to school. He said he despised "a damn educated fool." "To this I said that if we were fools we might as well be "educated" but he told me to "dry up." By this time I had acquired a spelling book, an arithmetic, a reader, a history and a geography. Mr. Otiis Whitney gave them to me and told his daughter, Rie, to help me. I set to work to go through these books and studied them as diligently as anybody ever studied. In about two months I succeeded in getting three-fourths through them. Rie was real good to assist me. When Martha saw that I was getting along faster than she was, she told my father to make me quit studying. Without any coaxing he said, "You stop that." To disobey him sure meant a good licking, so I stopped. I did go to school a little while during the winter of 1889-1890 but only went over what I already knew.

In 1886 a dentist came to our house. If I remember right his name was John Hagerty. His wife was with him, and they stayed about a month or better. They had a horse and buggy, and the back of the buggy was full of books. They were true, fiction or fable. Maybe there were six or seven hundred, perhaps a thousand of them. Most of these books were about the northwestern states and territories. They told in a romantic way about how these states got their names, how they were explored, of the exciting adventures the explorers had, of Indian fights, and how brutally the Indians tortured their captured victims. All this was so exciting that I sure did want to read them, especially the true ones.

One day while the dentist was telling my father about the books, my sister picked up one and got to read it for a couple of hours. She evidently read about John Colter and how he was captured at Three Forks, for in a few days she was taling about a man who escaped from the Indians and concealed himself in a pile of driftwood in the river. When I asked her to tell me more, she would not say a word.

Sometimes people would come to the house to buy books. The dentist would almost always read some thrilling episode or section of the book that he could tell would please his prospective buyer. Of course I listened to him, and was just famished to read them for myself. I knew it would be entirely useless to ask my father to buy a book for me. Therefore, I laid plans to take some books secretly and to return them the same way. For three or four days I watched for an opportunity to sneak some books but it actually appeared that he was on to me, and guarded them so well that I feared I'd have to give up the stunt.

One day as the dentist was leaving to peddle, my father

(Continued on page 5)

asked him to leave "Custer's Massacre" behind for him to read.

"I could," he said, "but Mr. Spray, why don't you buy it?"

He quickly made his way to the back of the buggy took the key out of his pocket, unlocked the box where the books were, took out "Custer's Massacre," and began to work on my father. He sure was a good book seller. He seemed to know the place in every book which would win for him a sale. He talked a blue streak and almost as fast as lightning. He even suggested that my father take the book as partial payment for his accommodations.

"Oh, hand it here, and if I want it, I will buy it." my father said. He reluctantly gave it to father to read for the day, saying "When I get back this evening you will buy it. Gee Whiz, I must be going." and locking up his books in the back of the buggy, he went off pell-mell.

When he returned that evening he was overly happy, and was singing a great deal as he often did when he had had a good day of selling. Alas! Dad had read to where it told of Reno deserting Custer. He pounced upon Mr. Hagerty saying, "If he hadn't have did it, Custer could of licked them Indians. If I ever see that damn Reno, I will tell him so" So father did not buy the book.

Mr. Hagerty had nine different kinds of books, and he had these stacked upon each other and about seventy five or eighty of those stacks. I was going to borrow one of those stacks, read them, and return them without him knowing it. One day my father, the dentist and I went fishing, he leaving the books in the care of his trusty wife. When we got a mile or two from home, I thought it might be my chance to sneak the books. I slipped back and hid behind a tree when I saw Mrs. Hagerty come out of the house, Sure enough, she went to the buggy, got a book, and returned to the house saying, "Martha, here is the book I wish you to see." In a jiffy I was at the buggy, grabbed a stack of those books, and as I was making my get-away I could hear her trying to sell a book to Martha.

I had already made calculations to cache them down in the brush where the willows were so thick one could hardly crawl through them. With great delight I started then and there to read them. At that time I was a very slow reader and didn't get along nearly as fast as I wanted to. I still believe that the old dentist was on to me but he never said a word.

Before I was halfway through reading them, the dentist and his wife "spread their white wings and flew far, far away, never more to return" as the dentist sang in the song he had composed about the Ugly Duckling. If I had known he would go away without them I would have returned them, but they left when I did not know of it. If I had returned them in that fashion, I knew my father would not have let him hurt me, but Father might have licked me. After they had gone, returning them was an impossibility.

I continued to read them just the same, and as days, weeks and months went by, Martha got to wondering what kept me out of the way. One nice cool day while I was lying on my side with my head in one hand and a book in the other, I thought I heard a little bird make a very faint noise, but did not pay any attention to it. Upon, again hearing it, I looked around and there was my sister within two feet of me.

How she was able to sneak up on me in this fashion she said she did not know herself.

"Oh." Did you steal them from the old dentist" "No" I said. "Yes, you did." and her voice seemed to scold, but to my surprise she added, "How in the world did you do it? I tried so hard it almost made me sick."

Without saying more she plunged her nose into one and was reading with as great interest as I.

When it was time to go to the house, Martha wanted to take them with us, but I balked saying, "Father will whip me."

"No he won't," she said.

Finally with much coaxing, I consented. Father was not in the house at the time we got there and I wanted to hide them, and read them when he was out, but Martha would not agree to that and sat at the table reading one when he came in.

"Why, Marthie, where did you get them books? Did they give them to you?"

"I found them." said Martha with a big smile.

"Let me have one." said Father as he put on his glasses.

"Did they give Jimmie one too?"

"No." said Martha, "The Day you folks went fishing, the old lady hid them out and forgot them. We found them."

"A whole set of nine?" Father asked.

"Yes." said Martha as she peeped up to me to see what kind of expression I had on my face. I smiled back and soon we three were all contentedly reading to ourselves. Father couldn't see very well at that time, and I had a hard time to read intelligently, but Martha was a fairly good reader. Therefore she read aloud from the books in rotation. Then at meal times or other times while we were doing something else, we would discuss what she had read. In the course of a month or so we had devoured those histories of the West.

+++++
Montana Trivia Part 5 Montana is a huge state and there are lots of clues. If you find an answer to any clue that you feel is just as good as the given answer, please share it and we will add yours to the trivia. Get your Montana maps out and here are 15 more. Answers will be at the May meeting and in the July Wagon Tongue.

1. Warning to a child about to touch something hot.
2. A long legged bird
3. A young flower
4. A small car
5. The posterior of an aquatic animal
6. A foreign village
7. A famous circus
8. A Warm wind
9. A single tree
10. To ask a blessing
11. An area between hills or mountains
12. A colon
13. Hikers's town
14. A grain and a closure
15. On what the early settlers squatted

=====

History Tidbits The Big Trees School was located in David Smith's field. Ray Swart died at the Manley Rodeo grounds in 1927. Susannah (Walter) Switzer, an early pioneer woman, was called *Gammie*. Tidbits by Don Black

Answers to Montana Trivia part 4 January 2008

1. A Fortified place...Garrison
2. To separate..Divide
3. Medicated Pool..Medicine Lake or Hot Springs
4. A crippled wild animal..Lame Deer
5. A famous president Lincoln, Jefferson, Clinton
6. A kind of berry..Alder, buffalo, Straw
7. Widest..Broadus
8. A greater amount...Moore
9. Alley Oops Girl Friend..Missoula
10. An animal stream..Wolf Creek, Bear Creek
11. A kind of sheep..Big Horn
12. Many lads...Boyes
13. A wide sight... Broadview
14. A geometric figure with no beginning or end..Circle
15. A black bird's bureau...Crow Agency

For Your Reading Pleasure Will continue next issue.

Looking Ahead The membership of MVHA has decided to continue having 4:00pm meetings at the First Madison Valley Bank. 7:00pm is not an option at the bank and there was no interest in going back to the VFW Hall.

Thursday, May 8, 2008 Annual Membership Meeting will be at 4:00pm at Trinity Church in Jeffers with approval of budget and election of board members. Potluck dinner to follow. Last names starting A to J please bring a main hot dish, K to Q bring a salad and R to Z bring a dessert.

Thursday, June 12, 2008 4:00pm Program TBA

July and August will hopefully be field trips. Dates and times TBA. Trip to historic Pony is in planning stages. Any other locations???

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

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Vice President: Jim Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

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Meetings held monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

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Contributing Editors:

Martha Armitage Klauman Armitage Family

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Trials Madison County Montana

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The Wagon Tongue welcomes articles of historical significance from any of the MVHA members or interested public.

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2008

From the Wagon Seat: July has arrived hot and dry. The days will be getting shorter and time seems to pass quicker than one would like it. The MVHA board was reorganized in June after the annual meeting in May with Larry Love continuing as president, Otis Thompson as Vice President, Neil Kent continuing as treasurer and Shirley Love and Duane Thexton as co-secretary. Duane is a newly elected board director and Smitty Overstreet and Jimmy Carlson continue as directors.

We finally got approval forms signed by the owners of the property to the east of the MVHA property to share the approach and at the time of printing of the WT, we are awaiting the approval from the DOT. Next will be the power and septic system and drain field. We have a contractor, who is willing to help us, looking at the plans for the forge building (see article page 4). So be ready with your hammers and a strong back to get this project going. We seem to be moving at a snail's pace but the board wants to get everything right the first time.

The upcoming events are the Hutchins Bridge Party on July 20 so plan on attending that again this year. On July 26 is the MVHA fundraising event. It is a 1950's style BBQ, Car Show and Soc Hop. Cost is \$20 per person. Plan to attend and even if you can not attend, you might be able to help us out with a donation. August 23 will be our field trip to historic Pony starting at 10:00am in Pony. Remember that our meeting in September will be the first to be on the third Thursday of the month from now on. It is Sept. 18 at 4:00 at the bank with a program on Norris.

A big thank you to Kid Neville, Karen Shores, Jim Carlson, Neil Kent and Ivory Lutgen for riding on our 4th of July float. Thanks to Rollie Hebel for the wagon, Dode Barnett for coming up with the only idea presented, Shirley Love and Pearl and Les Kilman for making the signs.

We need help at the museum to keep it open. The attendance is up, donations are up, sale proceeds are up. and the Wildlife Museum is now open again after roof repair. The "Beast " is attracting attention and the latest acquisition is a mount of a 25# Rainbow Trout caught in Cliff Lake by George Elliott around 1925, courtesy of Errol Hill of Las Vegas.

Our organization is only as strong as its membership. Check the April Wagon Tongue for the list of things that you can choose from to help us preserve the rich history of the Madison Valley. Last of all, remember the Lessons From Geese-----

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71% more flying range in V-formation than in flying alone. Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there more quickly. Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position. Lesson: It is harder to do something alone than together. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the head. Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence give us each a chance to lead as well as an opportunity to rest. The geese flying in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. Lesson: Encouragement is motivating. We need to make sure our "honking" is encouraging not discouraging. When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. Lesson: We may all need help from time to time. We should stand by our colleagues in difficult times. -Angeles Arrien
Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined the MVHA since the April 2008 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. if you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list.

Tuss ,Barba (Rowe) (I)
202 Terrance Loop
Bozeman, MT 59718
587-0085

Tone, Ben (P)
706 S. 9th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
587-3641

Membership Update

It is working very well to have memberships due during the year rather than all in January. It makes the job of the treasurer and the membership committee much easier. But it does give you a little job! Please check your mailing label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your membership is due. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. Right now April, May, June and July '08 are due and January, February and March '08 are over due. If you pick up your WT at the monthly meeting and do not get an address label, you may check with Smitty or Shirley and we will get you up to date. Thank you for supporting the MVHA

The Madison Valley lost three long time residents or former residents this spring. The MVHA would like to honor their memories with the following stories of their lives.

Mabel Luella Pasley passed away on March 17, 2008 at the age of 101. Luella Krupp Hayden was born the youngest of six children to Mr. and Mrs. Jake Krupp in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Sept. 5, 1906. Five months later her mother, Olive, died. For about a month she was taken care of by an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Antor. Mrs. Mabel Hayden,

sister of her mother, came from Montana and brought her back to Montana with her. Mr. and Mrs. Hayden raised her. They had lost a little boy, Wilford, in 1900, and never recovered from the loss, until Luella came into their lives.

In about 1907, the Haydens took Luella's brother Ben, who was four at the time and he lived with them until he was sixteen. Ben and Luella went to Jack Creek School. They walked the two miles except for the year the teacher boarded at the ranch. Then a horse and buggy was used.

When Luella was six, a son Dallas was born to the Haydens. Everyone was overjoyed.

Luella took the 7th and 8th grade examinations in Ennis High School and attended there until 1924 when her father, Jake Krupp came from Michigan and she went back with him to finish her last year of high school. She returned the fall of 1925 and started working for Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Chowning. She attended Butte Business College for six months and came home and worked for Belle Jeffers. She was working when she and Dar Pasley were married. on Feb. 11, 1928. After they married, they lived in Ennis about a year and Dar still had the meat market. Later he worked for the Diamond J Ranch and the Jumping Horse Ranch.

At the time their first child, James Reid was born on November 12, 1936, Dar was working for Mr. Cadell who owned the Jeffers General Merchandise Store. They were living in a small house in Jeffers. They built onto the house and on February 8, 1936 their daughter Annabelle was born. In 1942 they bought the Betty Baldwin house.

In 1944, Dar became the manager and part owner of the Marshall Wells Store and in 1957 they had the Pasley Farm Service and Pasley & Son Construction. In 1970 they added the Ennis Auto Parts and another addition was added in 1981 for storage of grains, seed and machine parts.

Editor's note:Luella was proceeded in death by her husband, Dar, Their son, J.R., still continues to run the family business in Ennis.

Written by Luella Pasley and taken from **Pogressive Years Madison County, Montana Volume II** page 766-767.

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back of the membership application

Memories Continued

Elinore M. Baker Bennetts Kirkwood

passed away April 15, 2008 at Davenport, WA at age 97. She was born Oct. 29, 1911 in Virginia City, MT in the same house where her father, Harry W. Baker, Sr. was born. Harry W. Sr. married L. O. "Ollie" Vetter Hungerford on July 2, 1910. After marriage, they moved to V. C. where Elinore was born. Her father worked for a livery stable for a year or so. When Elinore was a few months old, they moved back to the Madison Valley and went to work at the at the Tom Hodgens Ranch. That fall they went to work at the Granite Mountain Ranch (old Butler Ranch later known as the Sun Ranch. Up until Elinore was 3, her family moved back to V. C. and then to Ennis where her father worked in a livery stable for Art Nelson. Following this he worked on various ranches in the valley. From the time Elinore was 3 until she was 6, her family worked at the Valley Garden Ranch. They moved into town and ran a cafe for a couple of years and when Elinore was 9, the moved back to the Valley Garden which her father leased and ranched there until Elinore wa 13. Lilah Jean (Jean Baker Armstrong..long time MVHA member)was born there in 1924.

The Bakers ranched two years at the old Elling Ranch (Al Thexton's) in Varney, then moved to Green Acre Ranch near McAllister which her father leased. In about the 1930's, the Bakers moved into Ennis and had a restaurant, Baker's Cafe now the Ennis Cafe, as well as a bakery..Ennis Bakery now the Depot Gallery. Elinore graduated from high school in Ennis and married T. E. (Earl) Bennetts in 1928. They raised three children, Donna, Dixie, Ted and after the children reached school age, she worked outside the home. With her parents and husband, they operated restaurants and a bakery at different times in Ennis. In mid-life, she started an accounting career and worked for a Ford dealership. In 1964, she and Earl moved to Davenport, WA and began a 17 year career at Lincoln Hospital as an accountant. Earl passed away in 1985 and Elinore married Robert R. Kirkwood in 1990 and they lived in the Davenport until his death in 1999. Information compiled by the editor from Pioneer Trails and Trials, Madison County, MT. and Elinore Kirkwood obituary printed in the April 23, 2008 *Madisonian*.

Former Madison County resident, **Alma Louise Wallace Oliver**, passed away April 17, 2008 in Polson at the age of 95. She was born Feb. 27, 1913 in Butte to William and Sarah Perkins Wallace In 1915 her family left Butte and came to Madison County where they took up a dry land homestead on the south side of the Madisonian Hill. Alma remembered some who lived near them--Harry Adams who had a homestead right on top of the hill The Mike Dringles had a place nearby, also 3

C.Victor Jones, bachelor, Dan Marshall who was caretaker at the Madisonian Mine and Mrs. Carmichael. In the fall of 1921, the Wallace's sold the homestead and moved to a small place on the hill just east of the place which is now the Bowersox ranch. They then lived on the Ben Whitman ranch and later on the old Pat Shoenberger ranch which later was the Lewis Hughes ranch. Alma married Cl Albertarence Oliver on July 3, 1936 in Butte. Her parents lived with them for awhile before they went back to Andersonville, Tennessee. Alma and Clarence lived several places in the valley and for a time in Tennessee. During her life, alma cooked at the Madison Valley Hospital, Ennis Cafe, Bettie's Cafe and Sportsman Lodge. She also cleaned cabins at the Sportsman Lodge and Morgan's El Western and worked for Meals on Wheels all in Ennis.

Information excerpted from Trails and Trials Madison County, Mt. p. 143(Clarence Oliver) and p. 196(William Wallace) and the Alma Oliver obituary printed in the April 23, 2008 *Madisonian*

History Tidbit Earl and Elinore Bennets were so nice to all the high school girls. They would get as many as they could in their car and take them to the proms in different towns. I remember going to Harrison and Sheridan. This was during World War II and I always wondered where they got the gas. Boys were scarce because they were in the service. Submitted by Mary Ann Neville Alger.

Branding Iron from 1805 state's earliest

What was the first brand in Montana? Was it Capt Meriweather Lewis' brand on a piece of leather to mark bales of furs, botanical specimens and other items for shipment on the keelboat Mandan in 1805?

E.E."Boo" MacGilvra of Butte, reports in the July Montana Stockgrower magazine that the original branding iron used on the leather was discovered among some rocks on the north shore of the Columbia River below Mamaloose Island. The iron is on display in Portland.

MacGilvra says "We have long considered the Poindexter and Orr Square and Compass or some early wagon train arrivals as being the initial brand in the Treasure State. However, the piece of leather branded by Captain Lewis around 1805 proves to be the earliest in Montana."

The P and O spread, now the Rock Island, is on the Blacktail Creek near Dillon.

Editor's note: Are there any brand histories and stories available for sharing with the MVHA?

History Tidbit Albert Finley, Jr. was the 2004 Tug of War Attendee who claims to have been the first person, along with Clifford Jeffers, to hike to the summit of Fan Mountain. Who else has hiked to the summit of Fan Mountain and might have a story?

The MVHA received \$12,442.56 to help build a replica of the Otto Coss Oscar Angle blacksmith shop. This donation was given by Doris(Sis) Angle Benschoter, daughter of Oscar Angle. The following article is written by her about her life. Article donated by Larry Kiefer, nephew of Doris.

I would have been born in Ennis, Montana on January 7, 1923 except for the fact that the doctors in Ennis were out of town and the nearest doctor was in Sheridan, which was about 35 miles away. There were no paved roads back then but the old Model T Ford did pretty good getting over the mountains and through the snow drifts. The trip took about 4 hours. I was born in the Ruby Valley Hotel in Sheridan--I always told Don I didn't like house-work because I was born in a hotel!

My mother was a school teacher before she married. My father was a blacksmith. I can remember my mother tutoring some of the kids that would come to our house. I had the impression she was helping them with algebra. Us kids also spent time in the blacksmith shop watching Dad make horse-shoes and putting them on horses. I remember one old gentle work horse that he always had to hog tie to get the shoes on. That old horse would just go wild every time he needed new shoes.

I started school when I was 5 years old--in first grade--we never heard of kindergarten back then. My brother, Wellington who was 11 months older, started at the same time. When I was 8 years old, my sister Emily Lou was born on Jan 23, 1931. The following year on Feb. 17, my brother Melvin Keith was born. My youngest brother, Donald, was born on April 8, 1934. Four days later on April 12 my mother died. My aunt Hattie Angle took care of Donald for about three months. We had 3 different women come in to care for us in as many months. Then Mrs. Elizabeth Baker came with her four year old daughter. She was only 25 at the time. She stayed until the boys were in high school except for the summer when I was 15 when she decided to take the summer off. With my brother's help we managed to get through the summer on our own. Mrs. Baker came back when school started. I guess she needed us as bad as we needed her.

Things weren't the easiest for her. We had water in the house--a pump in the kitchen. A wood stove to cook on in the kitchen and a stove for heating the house was in the living room. Actually what we had was a four room house with a path. There were several families around town that wanted to adopt the younger kids but Dad wouldn't hear of that. It was hard for him but he kept us all together.

I graduated in 1940 and worked in the post office for a few months and also worked part time for the forest service as a secretary. While in high school, I had a teacher who talked me into taking an extra year of shorthand and also told me about a summer course at the University in Missoula which would give a person some idea of the civil service tests 4

one could take. After I took that course in the summer of 1941, I went to Bozeman to take the civil service test.

Our country got into World War II in December 1941. In March of 1942, I got a telegram asking if I could report to the State Dept. in Washington, DC. When I took the civil service tests, I wasn't planning to go quite that far from home but I got up enough nerve to keep from backing out and sent back a reply in a few days that I would come. I wouldn't start at the entry pay of \$1200 but the next step up at \$1440 since I was going so far from home. (This was the advice I got from our postmistress.) Doesn't sound like much pay these days but back then it was pretty darn good and would buy all you needed. And after all, there was a war on and there were a lot of things you couldn't buy anyway. Back then you could buy a good pair of shoes for \$5 and they were soon rationed.

I left home on April 13, 1942--a Monday and arrived in Washington on Thursday. It was a long tiresome trip on the train. Had to change trains in Chicago. I met another girl on the train going to D. C. and together we managed to find where to transfer to the right train and get us to our destination. We went to the YWCA together and they assigned a temporary room until they found us something more permanent. This is when we separated and went different directions. She went to work in the War Dept. I was sent to an apartment of an elderly spinster who rented her two bedrooms for the war effort. My roommate was from Nebraska and work-ed at the Pentagon building across the river in Virginia. The girls in the other room were both from Virginia--Charlottesville and Norfolk. This apartment building was only about three blocks from the State Dept., which was one of the big buildings next to the White House. It is now being used as White House offices and the State Dept. was moved down near the Potomac River. The other big building on the other side of the White House is the Treasury Building.

In September 1942 Dad came back to D.C. and went down to Virginia. This was the first time he had been back since he left in 1903. Two of his brothers, Waller and Burks and his oldest sister Honora Cordelia were in Montana. But he still had four sisters and two brothers in Virginia. They all lived around the Rocky Mount area. In the summer of 1943, Dad's youngest sister, Ethel met me in D.C. and went to Montana with me. The train we were on from D.C. to Chicago must have been from the 1800s. There was no air conditioning and we opened the windows and the trains in those days were run by coal. We were all a sooty mess by the time we got to Chicago. From Chicago on, we had much better traveling on the North Coast Limited unless the train was pulled off on a siding. Troop trains and some freight trains had priority(continued on pg 5)

(Continued from page 4)

and seems as though we were about 4 hours late getting to Bozeman that trip. When Ethel and I went back we took my sister, Emily, with us. She went on down to Virginia with Aunt Ethel and stayed about a week. Then she came up to D. C. and stayed another week. I was working afternoon shift and we did some sight seeing in the morning and early afternoon. My roommates took her out to an amusement park and took her for a ride on a roller coaster. She thought she was going to like that really well but after one ride, they said she changed her mind and as far as I know, she never rode another one. When it was time for her to go back to Montana, I went as far as Chicago with her. We did some sightseeing there and went to Marshall Fields Department store. I put her on the train about 11p.m. at night and as I've thought about that in later years, I'm not so sure I would do that again.

In March 1944, I was called home to see my oldest brother, Wellington. He was a mechanic in the Air Force and was being shipped out to the South Pacific. On the way back to D.C., I got on a train at Bozeman about 8 pm. I was told by the other passengers that the only seat unoccupied was the one at the far end of the coach--the one where you ride backward and face the other passengers. There were 2 soldiers there, I was told. About 15 minutes after the train pulled out of Bozeman, the two soldiers came through the door at the far end of the coach. When I saw Don, the first thought came to mind was that is the man I'm going to marry. By the time we got to Chicago, we exchanged addresses and began to write each other. He was on his way back to Michigan. His grandmother had died. He didn't make it back in time for the funeral. He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington at that time. Later after going back, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, N.C. He was shipped out in late November to England and soon was in Germany. He came back in May 1946 and came to see me in D.C. He proposed when we were at the top of the Washington Monument. I knew at the time I would be going to the four power conference (U.S, France, England, and Russia). We were to be gone 6 weeks. Others were to go over for the Peace Conference which was to follow soon after. But the planes got grounded because of accidents so they decided to keep us over there for the Peace Conference. There were four from our division to go. There was about 100 to 150 that worked in the communications division in the State Department. We felt quite fortunate that that we were chosen to go. We worked in the codes and ciphers and our messages came in during the night and we started work about 6 a. m. and worked till about noon and had the rest of the day off for sightseeing. Occasionally one or two of us had to work a Sunday but we felt we had it made!! We worked at the Embassy which was within walking distance of the hotel-the Maurice. 5

There was a total of about 100 in the peace conference delegation including two senators-Vandenberg from Michigan and Connely(sp) from Texas.

As I look back, French was offered instead of Latin during my second year of high school. I decided to take it. I got good grades in daily work and even on tests. But the teacher gave a D or an F on report cards. I couldn't get any answers from her so Mrs. Baker went with me to question the teacher. She said she had just started a new grading system--grading on the curve. One person in the class had to flunk. Seems like she thought coming from a poor family, I would never get to France anyway. Well, guess who the first person to get to France was--on a Diplomatic passport and all expenses paid. Our salary at home was going directly into the bank saving. We drew what they called per diem which we used for our own expenses over there. Doris Angle Benschoter's story to be continued in future issues of the Wagon Tongue.

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Montana Trivia. part 6 Montana is a huge state and there are lots of clues. If you find an answer to any clue that you feel is just as good as the answer, please share it and we will add yours to the trivia. Get your maps out and here are 15 more clues. Answers at the Sept. meeting and in the October Wagon Tongue.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. A crimson teepee | 9. A famished animal |
| 2. A hot beverage stream | 10. An albino trout |
| 3. Maker of little liver pills | 11. Called Yellow Hair |
| 4. Elevated fuel | 12. A dark bird |
| 5. A month of the year | 13. Used to hold up your pants |
| 6. A thermal fountain | 14. The keeper of lambs |
| 7. A type of footwear | 15. Energy |
| 8. A gathering of cattle | |

Answers to Montana Trivia part 5 April 2008

1. Warning to a child about to touch something hot.-Birney
2. A long legged bird-Crane or Heron
3. A young flower-Rosebud
4. A small car-Austin or Dodson
5. The posterior of an aquatic animal-Fishtail
6. A foreign village-Frenchtown
7. A famous circus-Ringling
8. A Warm wind-Chinook
9. A single tree-Lone tree
10. To ask a blessing-Prau
11. An area between hills or mountains-Plains
12. A colon-Two Dot
13. Hikers's town-Walkerville
14. A grain and a closure-Ryegate
15. On what the early settlers squatted-Homestead

=====
For your reading pleasure

When Montana and I were Young A frontier childhood by Margaret Bell Memoir is as tough, gritty and blue as the Montana Frontier in the 1890's.

In Open Spaces by Russell Rowland A novel set in the vast and unforgiving prairie of eastern Montana from 1916 to 1946 is the compelling story of the Arbuckle brothers.

Looking ahead

Sun. July 20 Hutchins Bridge Party. 6:00-9:00

at the Old Kirby Place. MVHA will share in the proceeds from this fun event so plan to attend.

Watch for details of this event in local papers

Sat. July 26, Car Show, BBQ and SocHop

Relive the 1950's with the MVHA fundraiser!!

Car show at Elem School parking lot from 4-5pm, BBQ at Lions Club Park from 5-6:30pm and dance your socks off to tunes from the 50's and 60's at Elem School gym from 7-10pm. Tickets at \$20 per person available at the museum or from MVHA volunteers. Proceeds go to the MVHA museum project. Talk this event up with your friends, family and neighbors. Let us get a big crowd!!

Sat., August 23, '08 is the field trip to historic Pony, Mt. Meet at the Museum at 121 W. Main in Ennis for car pooling at 9:00am with tour to start at 10:00 am in Pony. Bring a picnic lunch and water and good walking shoes. Tour will be about 2 hours with lunch at noon. Janet Zimmerman will guide the tour.

Sept 18, '08, 4:00pm at the First Madison Bank will be the first MVHA meeting with the change from the 2nd. Thursday to the 3rd Thursday. Program will be a history of Norris.

History Tidbit Lawrence Jeffers and Lawrence Rose caught the famous Madison Valley *Albino Skunk*. Whatever happened to it?

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Co-Secretary: Duane Thexton & Shirley Love

Director: Jimmy Carlson

Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the third Thursday of each month. Watch *Madisonian* for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be October 2008.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing Editors: Luella Pasley from

Progressive Years

Madison County, Montana Vol 11 page 766-767

Alma Wallace Oliver from Pioneer Trails and Trials,

Madison County, Mt. page 143 and 196

Doris (Sis) Angle Benschoter writing her memories

E.E. "Boo" MacGilvra *Branding Iron from 1805*

States Earliest from Montana Stockgrower (date?)

Montana Trivia--Zoe Todd

History Tidbits--Don Black

--Mary Ann Alger

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474

Ennis, Montana 59729

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The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2008

From the Wagon Seat: Fall has arrived. The beautiful fall colors are out, the birds are flocking together and the hunters are getting ready. The MVHA is also moving along, too. The Hutchins Bridge Party was a big success again. Those organizers “up our way” deserve an big “thank you” from each of us for the amount of money that they raise for the MVHA. A big thank you to Deb and Harry Townshend, Nancy and Carl Vess, Linda Miller and to all of the other volunteers that had a hand in getting a great party done. Our 50’s Soc Hop and car show was successful. Thanks to Zoe Todd and to everyone who purchased tickets, made donations, brought food and helped out in any way when called upon.

The MVHA has been selected for the “Fish Out of Water” fundraising project. Our fish is a “historical” fish titled “Carrying the Legacy” depicting history events in the area by artist Christine Blockledge. This needs to be talked up to get people interested in bidding on the fish. The higher the bids the better!! The MVHA will receive 45% of the final bid at the auction next Labor Day. More information will be given in January as the Economic Development group gets their Web site up and information on fundraising out.

The summer field trips to Wall Creek and Pony were rated a great success by all those who attended. If you have ideas for field trips for next summer, please let a board member know. A great big thank you goes out to all who volunteered at our museum this summer. The attendance and donations were way up. The beast was very popular as well as the big rainbow trout. Our only problem was not being open some days because of lack of volunteers.

We now have an approach to our land and now we need to have it paved. Any ideas? We have a carpenter looking at the plans for the blacksmith shop and we will soon have an idea on a museum building. We need to have members step forward to help and get involved. We need members to volunteer to do fundraising or present new ideas for fundraising. We need volunteers to do programs or ideas for programs for Smitty to pursue. Our oral history project is doing well but volunteers are needed to do interviews. The board needs your help in preserving the history of the Madison Valley. The board cannot do this task alone.

You need to stop by the First Madison Valley Bank and check out the history wall. You will be delighted It is on the Jeffers area. Thanks go to Marlene and Elso Reintz, Shirley Gustafson and Darlene Pasley.

The board needs to have your input. An association is only as good as our membership. It may seem like we are at a snail’s pace with our museum project but the board feels that we need to get it right.

Join us as we have the monthly meetings and programs. November hopefully will be Hal Pasley with his stories. December will be the annual Christmas potluck dinner with sharing of Christmas stories and showing off old Christmas ornaments or decorations. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

+++++

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July 2008 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. If you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list.

Columbia, Mike (I)

44 Shining Mountain Loop 406-682-7338
Ennis, MT 59729

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2218 N. W. Alan
E. Wenatchee, WA 98802

Hill, Errol (I) 702-385-2723

1614 Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Olson, Dale A. (I) 406-664-3176

HCR 46 Box 54
Belfry, MT 59008

Parish, Ed & Yvonne (F) 406-682-3003

Sun West Ranch 6 Pine Ridge Road
Cameron, Mt 59720

Membership Update

Please check your address label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your next membership is due. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased your membership. Thank you for supporting the MVHA.

The Madison Valley lost a long time resident on May 23, 2008 when **Madalyn Cecelia Scully** passed away at the Madison Valley Manor. Madalyn was born on November 19, 1920 in Bozeman to Stephen F. and Celelia E. McDonnell. She grew up on a ranch in the lower Madison Valley and came to love this family home. During her father's lifetime, the ranch grew and they raised Hereford cattle and Rambouillet sheep. She never forgot the all day cooking for the ranch hands and shearing crew when she would rather be outside. She remembered the wagon trips to Helena to get supplies. All the ranchers would participate in these trips. She would tell of her family history about a relative, Annie L. McDonnell, who was born in 1865. Annie was one of the first white children born in the Three Forks area. Because of her blonde hair and light skin, she was greatly admired by the Indians--so much so that they eventually stole her. Annie's parents and neighbors organized a posse and went after her. She was recovered unharmed. Madalyn attended school in the lower Madison Valley until 8th grade. She rode a horse to school every day and once in a while her father would take a sleigh with blankets in the winter. She moved to Manhattan in the winters and stayed with her Grandmother Waters and graduated from high school there in 1938. She then attended Dillon Normal School(now Western Montana College) graduating with a 2 year teaching degree in 1940 at the age of 19.

She began her teaching career in Ennis in 1941 and stayed with the Linton family. While teaching in Ennis, Madalyn met John F. Scully who was also teaching in the Ennis School system. Jack entered the Navy Air Corp in 1941 and Madalyn moved to Helena to Helena Central where she taught 5th grade in 1943. They were to be married in Manhattan during Jack's leave during the Christmas Holidays. The war escalated, leave was canceled and Jack was sent to Jacksonville, FL as a flight instructor, Madalyn terminated her position in Helena and took the train to Jacksonville to be married on Dec. 18 at the Navy church. While Jack was stationed in the Philippines, Madalyn returned to the family ranch. She purchased sheep with money she and Jack earned. In 1945, both returned to Ennis with Madalyn teaching 3rd and 4th grade and Jack teaching 7th and 8th grade. They lived at the ranch now known as the Channels, so named by Ed and Byllie Maynard. They rode the school bus to town until the school board decided that teachers could not ride the bus. They rented a house from Porter Nelson until he learned that Madalyn was pregnant with their first child, John. Porter would not allow children so they purchased a small motel from Roy and Lucy Taylor in 1946 with the money saved from the sale of their sheep and they continued to improve and operate it until 1986. It is currently known as the Grizzly Motel on Main Street. When they moved to the motel, they would occasionally allow the priest from Laurin to have a service in the house. The home as heated with an oil stove that was very hot. Madalyn often told two stories about those days which John shared with the Wagon Tongue. I was playing with a ball and it bounced behind the stove. The priest was there and went to retrieve the ball until I said, "Get away from that stove. The God Damned thing is hot!!" A cowboy came in to rent a room and I hollered to her, "My God ,Mom. It's Hop along Cassidy!" That house was also the place where daughter Marcy, while cutting a ribbon on her doll, slipped and cut her eye with a steak knife. The Ennis Lion's Club which Jack helped organize and attended was instrumental in the medical treatment that followed for that eye. Madalyn returned to teaching in Harrison for seven years, 1971-78, and tutored and was a teacher in Ennis for many years. She also coached girls basketball and track. Madalyn always said that if she had a second life she would be a horse trainer. A dream was to go to the Kentucky Derby. Her family took her in 1999 and she returned with her new bonnet and 6 mint Julep glasses even though she'd rather have a Miller Lite. She even won money on all the races except for the Derby.

Madalyn Scully Memories are from Madalyn's son, John Scully and the *Madisonian* obituary May 28, 2008.

Continued from Wagon Tongue, July 2008
We left Doris Angle Benschoter going to the Peace Conference in France.

We left on June 11, 1946 on a TWA Constellation and flew by way of Newfoundland and also stopped somewhere in Ireland where we had breakfast before going on to Paris. The trip took a total of about 18 hours and our plane broke a record they told us because we had a tail wind most of the way.

As these planes had been grounded because of accidents while we were there, it was decided we would go back on a new luxury liner "The United States". But that wasn't to be either because of a dock strike in New York and the ship couldn't even leave port. We then had a choice of coming back on an army transport plane or on an English ship "The Aaquatania". This ship was one of Britain's luxury liners before the war and was to be a luxury liner again. Much of the ship had already been redone. The staterooms still had the bunks the troops had used. There were four of us to a room about 8 by 8 feet. We left France on October 27 and arrived in New York Nov. 2. I didn't have any problem with seasickness but after I got home I could feel the rolling motion for about a week when I went to bed. About halfway across we were told we were passing one other ship (I believe they said the Queen Mary) but we couldn't see it for the fog and mist. We could hear the fog horns from the other ship.

Later in November after I got back from Paris, I took some leave and came to Michigan to see Don and to meet his family. We decided we would set a February date to get married. I went on to Montana to see my family before going back to D.C. We decided on Feb. 22 date. My Dad (Oscar Angle) and two youngest brothers came back at that time and afterward went on to visit in Virginia. So I got all my family to Virginia where Dad had grown up. My oldest brother asked to get his discharge in D.C. in January 1946 and we went to Virginia at that time.

Don had started working at Oldsmobile during the summer of 1946. In June we bought a house on Johnson Ave. John was on the way and the doctor said he would be here about Christmas time. He was born Dec. 3, 1947. When John was 11 months we went to Montana on the train. We were out there on election day. We had voted by absentee ballot before we left. Dad was always the judge of the election in Ennis. He had been for several years and was up most of the night counting votes.

The next time I went out to visit Dad, Don didn't go. John was 2 1/2 years old. I stayed about a month at that time. The Korean War started while I was out there and there were rumors that they might take some of the W.W.II vets back in the army. I thought I had better get back home just in case it was true.

Dianna was born on Sept./ 26, 1951. When she was 3 months old, Dad came to Michigan for his first visit to Michigan. He went on to Virginia later. 3

When Dianna was 10 months old we went out to Montana by train. Emily had 3 children by then-- Larry was born April 13, 1949, Nancy on Sept. 25, 1950 and Kathryn on Sept. 18, 1951. Dianna started talking at 9 months. She could say 3 words--dog cracker and baby. Of course when we got to Montana the only word she said right was cracker. That summer we went to Yellowstone Park--Dad, Don, Emily, and myself plus five kids--all in one small car. When I was growing up Dad had a Chevrolet (1927-'28). There were six of us kids, Mrs. Baker, Dad, and sometimes we took an old friend of Dad's Jim Floyd. I don't remember fighting like John and Dianna used to in the back seat as they were growing up. Of course, it was quite a treat to go anywhere back then. The car was never used for anything but special trips. Living in a small town, we didn't need a car in town.

First time we went out by car was 1954. The car broke down in Worthington, Minn. and we spent the better part of the day getting repairs but it was a pretty good trip and I believe we went through the park that year too.

We moved to Delta Township in 1955 and didn't go West again until 1959. We went to Yellowstone Park that time too. We stopped at Hebgen Dam to see George Hungerford on our way back to Ennis. (He was my Aunt Ollie Baker's son by her first marriage) He was caretaker at the dam.

Editor's note: We will leave Doris Benschoter at Hebgan Dam and continue her memoirs in the Jan. 2009 issue.

Chamberlin Homestead

Edwin Austin Chamberlin was born at Windham, Connecticut on April 11, 1864, the only child of a sea captain. After retirement, the Captain moved his wife and son to Minnesota.

Ed married Minnie Louise Wruck, who was born in 1873 in Coburg, Germany. Minnie moved to Minnesota when she was four years of age.

In 1902 Ed Chamberlin met William J. "Will" Ennis, Jr. at horse races in Rosebud, Montana. Will had heard of Ed's work for M. W. Savage, the owner of the famed trotting horse, Dan Patch. At the time Will Ennis owned a promising horse, "Dyke" but didn't know much about training or racing horses. After talking with Ed, Will offered him a job with better wages than Savage would pay. In addition to the better wages, he was to receive meat and butter from the Ennis ranch, and a house, provided free for Ed and his family. After visiting Ennis, Ed and Minnie decided to make the move.

Ed came to Ennis in 1902 with Minnie and children joining him in 1904. The young family consisted of Anthony Lee "Tony" born June 7, 1898, Lewis Austin "Lewie" born October 30, 1899 and baby Grace Hannah born June 3, 1902. (cont. pg 4)
When the family first moved to town, they lived in a house owned by the Ennis family (continued on page 4)

Chamberlin Homestead continued from page 3
When the family first moved to town, they lived in a house owned by the Ennis family which was eventually the Clancy House and was a part of the old library. Dorothy Louise was born in this house on January 14, 1904. Sadly she drowned in an irrigation ditch next to that house on June 14, 1905.

Ed was in charge of the Ennis family's livestock, which included pet elk. These animals gave the residents of Ennis many anxious moments. Ed managed to form a team with the elk, which was driven in an Elk's Convention parade in Salt Lake City in 1905.

"Grandma" Ennis (Mrs. William, Sr.) gave a parcel of land to the Chamberlin family as a home site. This land included the parcel which is presently the site of the Valley Bank.

On the land the Chamberlains built a house, corrals, stage stop and various other buildings. Minnie Chamberlain was a fine cook and started a boarding house. During the period from 1910 to 1912 when Hebgen Dam was being built, she fed and housed as many as 25 to 30 men on a daily basis.

After the death of Will Ennis in 1908, Ed Chamberlin contracted to drive the stage route south from Ennis, carrying mail and supplies to the residents of the upper Madison Valley.

Ed also served as manager for several large ranches in the valley, including the Valley Garden, Green Acre (McAllister area) and the Bear Creek Ranch at Cameron. On February of 1926, Ed Chamberlin suffered a stroke and died March 31, 1926.

Minnie Chamberlin lived her life out in their home. She had many young people live with her while they attended high school in Ennis. The students came from West Yellowstone and the upper Madison Valley to stay with "Grandma Chamberlin. Minnie was an avid supporter of the Ennis community, always encouraging its' growth and prosperity. She passed away May 12, 1950.

After her death, son Lewis and Gladys Chamberlin moved their family of Norman, Dode and Freda into the house, where they continued the tradition of housing young people while they attended school in Ennis.

Lewis Chamberlin was the first graduate from Ennis High School in 1918. He operated the Farmer's Union, (presently the Antique Mini-Mall), worked in Death Valley, California, for the Anaconda Company at the Anaconda Smelter, and as maintenance man for the Madison Valley Hospital. He was a charter member of the Commercial Club (now Chamber of Commerce) helped raise funds for the construction of the Madison Valley Hospital, and was a volunteer on the Fire Department. He was Justice of the Peace for 25 years and Ennis City Judge for 5 years. Lewie was renowned for his wonderful gardens, from which many people

enjoyed the bounty. He passed away on March 10, 1983.

Gladys Chamberlin was born outside Virginia City, Montana on September 29, 1903 to Montana Pioneers, Thomas and Mary Thexton. She was raised on the family ranch near Varney where she attended grade school. She graduated from high school in Bozeman in 1923.

"Nanny" as she was affectionately known, always had a warm hug for any child. She was always active, including driving her car until a broken hip at age 90 forced her to stop. She insisted up until she died at age 95 in 1998, that she could drive herself, should the need arise.

Gladys was active in the Commercial Club, Eastern Star and Madison Valley Woman's Club. She saw the changes taking place in Ennis as a step forward, not backward.

The Chamberlin, Barnett and Toner families are happy to see the Valley Bank building in Ennis and know that the members of the family who went before them would be pleased to see Ennis moving forward.

Chamberlin Homestead article written by Vurnie K. Barnett and given to WT by Dode Barnett.

Camels Didn't Work by Phyllis Smith

Six camels made a brief appearance in front of the Gibson House on Virginia City's Idaho Street in late May 1865. Freighters brought them up from Arizona with the hope they would carry freight from Virginia City to Fort Benton. The men had great hopes for the use of the animals. Camels could carry packs four times heavier than those carried by horses or mules, managing eight hundred to one thousand pounds to the two hundred pounds carried by a horse or mule: moreover, camels travel as much as 60 miles per day. An added benefit was that Indians were afraid of the camels. Even so, the plan did not work out. Virginia City horses were frightened by the camels as well and balked at their smell if the beasts were nearby.

Before the camels left the area, however, the VC children had a wonderful time riding the humped creatures. Ten small children could ride one dromedary at the same time. Granville Stuart remembered one young lady of 16 summers perched comfortably on one of the kneeling animals, but when the awkward beast attempted to regain its feet, she was wholly unprepared for the sudden dip forward and was pitched head first into the street, but fortunately escaped serious injury" This accident brought camel riding to a halt. They were moved to Snow Shoe Gulch. Alas, a hunter in that area who thought he had downed an elk, discovered he had shot one of the camels instead. The remaining five went safely to Utah.

Phyllis Smith is a MVHA member who resides in Bozeman and is author of several history books including *Montana's Madison County: A History*.

From the Mail Box

From Dale A. Olson from Belfry, MT. 7/19/08

It was good to visit Ennis last May and visit with Jack (Kirby) and you (Larry) at the museum. The Beast story will make a valued addition to my book The Burgess Long Range Repeating Rifle Model 1878

It's always a treat to find this much history on a particular subject, and especially to hold the rifle that was believed to have been the gun used to shoot the "Beast".

Editor's note: Dale has joined the MVHA, made a donation and will soon have his book published with the story of the beast a part of his book.

From Ben Tone, Bozeman, Mt. after speaking to MVHA meeting. 6/21/08

I enjoyed speaking to your group. I admire what you are doing to preserve Montana history.

My wife, Nina, as you know was from Alder and also greatly interested in Montana History. This is one of the reasons I wanted to speak to your group. I did not expect compensation for my talk but accept your check with thanks. I would also like you to accept the enclosed donation to your group to help them in their desire to preserve the history of MT. Editor's note: Ben also joined the MVHA to help support our preservation of history.

History Wall at the First Madison Valley Bank

When the bank was being designed and built, a wall to display historical items of the Madison Valley was included. The first display was prepared by the MVHA and the architect and was about the history of Ennis. The second display was prepared by Stephanie Vujovich and was about the Hutchins Family and the Hutchins Bridge and was prepared to coincide with the Hutchins Bridge Celebration. The third display is currently up and is the history of Jeffers. This display was prepared by Marlene and Elso Reintz, Shirley Gustafson and Darlene Pasley.

A special thank you is given to all the individuals who have helped prepare the history displays and to the First Madison Valley Bank for having the foresight to have an area to display the rich history of the Madison Valley.

Take time to drop by the bank and see this history wall. Interested individuals and families are invited to prepare a history display for this wall as the intent is to continually rotate this display and show the varied and interesting history of the Madison Valley. Prepared displays can be kept and eventually be displayed at the future museum of the MVHA.

The bank is planning special signs to better note the history wall and they are planning a celebration event for the history wall later this fall, possibly sometime in November.

Montana Trivia part 7 Montana is a large state and here are lots of clues for each town. If you find an answer to any clue that you feel is just as good as the answer, please share it and we will add yours to the trivia. And you might make up clues for towns that are not included yet!! Get your maps out and here are more clues. Answers at the November meeting and in the January Wagon Tongue.

1. A famous Ballet
2. Solar explosion
3. To hold back
4. Book of accounts
5. Frying
6. Before this
7. Beside the pond
8. An early wild man
9. To find
10. A steep small water fall
11. Where we would all like to go some day
12. When the preacher says to the Bride Groom..
"Will you..... to be your faithful wife? "
13. A large cascade of water
14. Girl's names (there are at least 20)
15. Boy's names (there are at least 24)

Answers to Montana Trivia Part 6

1. A crimson teepee- Red Lodge
2. A hot beverage- Coffee Creek
3. Maker of little liver pills- Carter
4. An elevated fuel- Highwood
5. A month of the year- Augusta
6. A thermal fountain- Geysir
7. A type of footwear- Moccasin
8. A gathering of cattle- Roundup
9. A famished animal- Hungary Horse
10. An albino trout- Whitefish
11. Called yellow hair- Custer
12. A dark bird - Black Eagle
13. Used to hold up your pants-Belt
14. The keeper of lambs-Sheperd
15. Energy-Power

History of Jeffers: Is just across the Madison River from Ennis. The ranches that surround it are some of the oldest in the valley. It was named for Myron D. Jeffers, a New York native who worked his way west as a miner and civil engineer. In 1864 he came to the Madison and freighted for the gold camps. In 1869 he trailed a herd of cattle up from Texas and sold them in Bannack and in 1871 he trailed another herd from Texas and noted in his diary that 1,894 cattle and 37 horses were "Road Branded". With this herd he started the Yellow Barn Cattle Ranch. His wife Florence (Switzer) was the first postmaster in Jeffers when the office opened in 1903. The Switzer store served as post office and general merchandise headquarters for many years. From 1940 until the office closed in 1975, Helen Wonder served as postmaster and community store keeper. From *Names on the Face of Montana* by Roberta Carkeek Cheney page 139

For Your Reading Pleasure

Homestead by Annick Smith In 1964 Annick Smith came to Montana with her husband Dave and their boys. In a fertile valley where meadows tip downward toward the Big Blackfoot River, they found what they had dreamed of: 163 acres of ranch land with a view of creek, hills, and the Rattlesnake Mountains. The Montana of which Annick Smith writes in this spirited and generous book is the not-so-distant West of outlaws and pioneers, Indians and soldiers, range inspectors and cattle thieves.

Christmas time in Montana by Dave Walter An entertaining assortment of Christmas memoirs newspaper accounts and editorials, poems and menus connects readers to the state's varied history through the celebration of Christmas Day.

Both books are available at the Madison Valley Public Library or interlibrary loan.

Looking Ahead

Nov.20 4:00pm at First Madison Valley Bank
Program: Hopefully Hal Pasley and his stories.

Sometime in Nov. the First Madison Valley Bank will be having a Celebration of the History Wall. Watch for date and time.

Dec. 18 4:00pm Location TBA Christmas potluck, Christmas story and old ornament sharing

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

President: Larry Love

Vice President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Co-Secretary: Duane Thexton & Shirley Love

Director: Jimmy Carlson

Director: Smitty Overstreet

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month. First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be January 2009.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

John Scully and the Madisonian obituary for Memories of Madalyn Scully

Doris (Sis) Angle Breschoter writing her memories

Vurnie K Barnett "Chamberlin Homestead"
Zoe Todd "Montana Tidbits"

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The Wagon Tongue

Volume 7 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2009

From the Wagon Seat: 2009 is here! It doesn't look like it is going to be a very prosperous year, but the MVHA is still planning, meeting, and moving along towards its goal of building a museum for the Madison Valley. We have a couple bids on paving our approach in accordance with the DOT. We also are working on bids for a forge building and the possibility of some other buildings on our site. Hopefully 2009 will be a real progressive year for the MVHA.

Don Black of Jeffers and Great Falls gave a great program in October on Businesses and Monkey Business of Ennis, and in November Hal Pasley entertained us with his history memories and his memories of main street Ennis. Our Christmas potluck dinner and program was a great way to end the year with our members sharing their Christmas memories. It is not too late to submit your Christmas Memory for our book to be placed at the museum.

We would like to get the recipe book started so be sure to submit your old time family recipes for it. If our members do not participate it will not get done. Recipes do not have to come from Ennis, Madison Valley or Montana. Old family recipes from anywhere you lived or grew up would be great.

This year we would like to feature stories of the earth quake in the Wagon Tongue and the stories will be placed in a book in our history museum library. 2009 is the 50th anniversary of the quake. You may send your stories in anytime. We would like to plan some programs around the earthquake and maybe a field trip to the earthquake site. We always need ideas, people to give a program or groups to present their stories at our meetings.

In looking forward a couple months, we are looking for someone to chair a committee to have an Irish Stew dinner on St. Patrick's Day. March 17 is the birthday of our founder, William Ennis.

An election at the annual meeting in May will be for directors of our board. Think about submitting your name for director. We have grants to write, have to put power into our land, have to start pounding stakes as to where the buildings, parking lots, etc. go at the museum site and have to get a building on our museum land. We very much need some doers.

Our history wall at the First Madison Valley Bank has generated a lots of good comments to us. Thanks to the people from Jeffers for the display. If you would like to put up a display depicting your family or if you have ideas for the history wall, let us know.

In 2009, plan to get involved with the MVHA. You can write a grant, work at the museum, prepare an Irish Stew or any other Irish dish, give a talk at a meeting, run for a position on the board..the list goes on. We need your help. The strength of the MVHA is its membership all helping to preserve the history of the Madison Valley in a lot of little ways. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Memories cont.

was growing up, and I spent part of every summer with them. Mrs. Orr gave me my first horse, Tony. I would go get the milk cows in every day, and when I left that summer, she told me I could have the horse, or she would pay me. My folks had the service station in Norris, and the last thing my Dad wanted was a horse! They gave in tho, and let me keep him, however, it became my job to find pasture for him, and as I was only 12 years old, this became a big job for me, but , I did get the job done. I had a paper route, rode the horse and delivered my papers, I sold pop bottles and anything else I could find, paid for my horse! Every child should have a horse!

Another loss to the Madison Valley was Jesse (Jess) C. Armitage who died on Nov. 26, 2008 at 87 years of age. Jess' daughter, Alice Sue (Armitage) Wright of Anthem AZ is a faithful member of the MVHA.

Jess was born in San Bernardino, CA in 1921 to Mr. and Mr. Rommel Armitage, whose home was in Redlands where he received his education. He graduated from high school in 1939.

In 1941 Jess came to the Armitage Ranch. Part of this ranch had been his father's homestead. It was owned by his cousin William K. Armitage. (Editor's note The Armitage ranch is now the Carroll Ranch.) While working on the ranch Jess met Grace Hippe, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Hippe. They operated a cattle and sheep ranch on Wolf Creek which was twenty seven miles south of Ennis, near the Madison River. On October 4, 1941, Jess and Grace were married and moved to Mentone, CA, where they worked through the orange harvest. They then moved to Clearfield, UT where Jess worked in the Air Depot and while there in 1942 learned that he was accepted in the Army and to report to Hemet, CA. He was inducted into the 91st Pinetree Infantry Division and had his basic training near Medford and Corvallis, OR. where he was trained as a truck mechanic. He was then sent to Fort Benning, Georgia for specialized training in mechanics. In the spring of 1944 the 91st Division was shipped to North Africa, and he spent most of his war time in Italy. In 1944 Alice Sue, their first child was born.

Jess received an honorable discharge from the service in 1945 and the family moved to Homestead, Florida where Jess operated heavy equipment, clearing land for orange and avocado groves.

The Armitages moved back to the Madison Valley when Jess accepted employment with Wetmore Hodges, who had purchased the Valley Garden Ranch. A son, Brian Ray was born in 1948. Later Jess moved to the Jumping Horse Ranch where he was foreman for seven years. When this

ranch was sold to Phil Yeckel, Jess was able to buy a house that had been built for his family on the ranch. Harold Helt took the job of moving the house to a lot in Ennis, on the west side of the Madison River. He moved the house to the east side of the river. The Montana Power cooperated by holding the river back in Hebgen Lake

When the water became more shallow at the old ford, Harold started across with his truck, pulling the house. As a safeguard, in case his truck failed, he had a cable attached to the front of the truck he was driving which lead to a truck on the west bank of the river. Lyal Thompson was on horseback in the river to see that the cable was "free" all the time. It took 10-12 minutes to make the crossing. Jess had the foundation on his lot ready for the house. Everyone who had gone to the river bank to watch cheered and clapped.

In 1952 the Armitages bought the Economy Store form Roy Wiedenmeyer. In 1954 they sold it back to him. They bought the Madison Theater from the Erie estate in 1953 and operated it for many years. Their third child, Kristin Day was born in 1956.

The Armitage Ford Garage was bought in 1961 and sold to Dan Todd in 1963. At that time Jess went into the Real Estate and Insurance business with Juanita Stalcup and others. They conducted a growing business under the name of F.N.I. (First National Insurance) with several offices in southwestern Montana.

From Progressive Years Madison County, Montana Vol. II Pg. 714-15 by Jess C. Armitage

=====
MVHA member, Barba Rowe Tuss sent this letter written by her Dad, Hank Rowe to a family friend, Charles "Buck" Crump.

Norris, Montana
February 6, 1949

Dear Buck and Family:

Received your letter a few days ago so will start a answer then will probably get it finished before too long. I too am getting slack on the letter business as compared to what I used to be altho I still like to receive and write letters yet. Get a few too many things for to think about at one time then then let it affect your normal life a little bit on the wrong way.

In this country for the last three months, there is never a lack of conversation with any one that you chance to meet. The one main topic of thot is the weather, and it is the most interesting of all things at present. Never has anyone in these areas witnessed the likes of this winter. Believe me, everyone has learned a lot as to what can happen. In writing you a description of what it is like, I can't possibly put in words for to describe the conditions We are not or have not suffered any from any of it, but there is the toughness of the ability to get

around to feed and care for all of the necessary work in feeding, etc. We are and have been snow bound as to cars and access to any town at present. Only once in about a week do we get out, then only on extreme necessity where the women and kiddies are concerned. Snow fall has been beyond anything that is on record. There is no telling about what it might be here, the wind has it piled in drifts beyond conception almost before the storm is over. There has been no warm spells in between the storms like we are always expecting from what other winters has been. Not one day of above freezing temperature here since in the last part of Nov. when the 21 inches fell over night for the beginning. For over a week in January, I don't think it was above 10 below day or night. Three mornings in a row it was -51, -48, and -44. It was almost too cold for stock to exist even tho they had plenty of feed. We have had no losses from winter other than natural to any winter. People are out of all sorts of supplies in every district. All those who live below us toward Bozeman are isolated about half way to Boz. The train has not been to Norris for some weeks now, and there is no gas, coal, fuel-oil etc. in Norris and on up the country. Roads to Ennis are blocked at present but they manage to get them open pretty well and not longer than 36 hours closed, but the machinery of both County and State is short for to meet such conditions. Only big Rotaries can do anything now. If it holds on for another week and no let up, it will find us in bad shape to get to hay for the stock as we have fed most of the hay out on the lower end of the ranch and the upper end is almost impossible to get to. Took the County Bulldozer last evening and plowed a hole thru to a big stack after the regular crew quit at five o'clock but this morning the wind is about 50 mph and you can't see 300 yards. Just for an idea--some 500 yards up the road toward Norris from the house, the drifts from both sides of the hill across the road would be from six to twenty feet deep. No fences show, tops of willow trees stick out, but there has been no travel on the roads since before Xmas. We leave the ranch straight North for the corrals to take ridges, etc. for any chance to get thru. We here-Rowe Bros.- have been awful lucky. We had coal, wood, fuel-oil, gas and stock supplement all in before any of this started and still have over a months supply yet regardless. As for our stock, its about the way I spoke of plans in the summer range to you. We sold all of the ewes we had up there, received the yearlings and have over 1200 of them now all in good shape yet. The cattle we culled down to 150 head with the oldest one-other than one milk cow-4 years old. They are in excellent shape other than a-

bout 10 head that carried calves and didn't quite get time enough to pick up before winter set in and are of course on the thin side. We are very fortunate it all worked out in the manner that it did for to compete with the tough conditions we are having now. While in Bozeman waiting for the baby to arrive, I saw and talked to Bill Denecke. He and several men had hen been three days with big Army 6 by 6's trying to reach camp at the Green Ranch with supplies both for the sheep and the ranch. Had snow plows hired the last I heard for help to go thru. Oh, I can't begin to tell of the misery its causing. I was in Bozeman from a Monday to the following Thursday trying to get to Norris. The Madison River had over flowed and the Highway between Three Forks and Logan putting all traffic over the arterial thru Great Falls. I could only go some 250 miles to get 30 so waited and finally tackled the short cut and shoveled and bucked the roads thru, the boys going from this end to the bridge to meet me. I had 2850 pounds of rolled grain on a new 3/4 ton Ford so really made tracks. Crossed thru the water on the highway going in after a call from Wilma of her entrance to the hospital, and against the will of the flagmen but with their assistance finally. It was a sight. Houses with very little showing through the ice, etc. You may have seen some of the pictures there that ran in papers. Everything has happened. Wild game are suffering, bird life is depleting and all of those things that of course goes with a condition of its kind. Weather reports offer no foresight of any break before the 17th. yet. We here in this state are not seeing the worst of it, compared to those on further south in the prairie countries in Utah, Neb. and Wyo. Over half of the nations sheep have been lost and over half the cattle in danger. So much for the weather. I could write 10 pages on it with what I have seen. We just pray for a break soon.

You asked about the out come of the hay foresight. As far as this whole valley is concerned, I don't believe there will be but a few who will have hay enough. Several are about out now with no surplus from which to draw from. As for us, ours will be nothing to crow about. If it continues and we have to feed as heavy as we are now, the first of April will be about as long as we could expect to last. We have been feeding everything since the 5th of December. We have some 3 sections of untouched good pasture. Should it open up, the sheep will take that without any hay. It will make good turnout for the cattle in early spring. It looks bad which ever way we turn for an out. Have fed about 10 tons of supplement-Soybean cubes of 44% which has been good feed. Got in on an early market of \$69 per ton. Now its something over a hundred delivered. We expect to get in another 5 ton later on. Hay is \$45 per T.

ing cattle and stated that the blizzard today was one of the toughest they were ever out in. Just now the radio sent warning of the several roads now blocked--Ennis, -Sappington, Bozeman, -Three Forks, Butte-Helena, Bozeman-Livingston, so you can see what she is like. Its still about a 60 mile wind and some snow falling.

Just, Hank and family

Editor's note: This is the Rowe Bros Ranch now known as Red Bluff.

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Earth Quake August 1959

2009 is the 50th anniversary of "The Night the Mountain Fell " or the Madison Valley Earth Quake. During 2009 the Wagon Tongue and the MVHA plans to feature articles and museum exhibits on the earth quake. If you have stories, pictures, etc. to share of this event please contact the MVHA. In this January issue will be printed the first earth quake story that has been submitted. We pick up with Doris Angle Benscholter, daughter of Oscar Angle. They were visiting in Yellowstone Park in August of 1959.... We stopped at Hebgan Dam to see George Hungerford on our way back to Ennis. Dad (Oscar Angle) had mentioned the lake looking rough but there did not seem to be much wind. Later we stopped at Rock Creek down in the con-yon for another lunch before going on home to Ennis. The water in that creek came down out of the m mountain and was very cold and very clear. We usually had a watermelon to put in the creek for a half hour before we ate. We had our lunch and head ed home after we got home there was a hail and thunder storm. It didn' last long but later after we had gone to bed we heard loud noises and thought there was another storm. It was clear and we realiz-ed that it was an earthquake. It was about 11:40pm Dad said that was the strongest one he had ever felt and he had been in Montana since 1903.Things calmed down a bit and we went back to bed only to wake up to sirens blaring soon after 2 a.m. We were told that there were reports that the dam had gone out. Everyone was told to go upon the hill to-ward Virginia City. I must say that is a good way to meet all of your old acquaintances--everyone was up there--some I had not seen since I left home in 1942. One of my cousins was there with her picture albums--the only thing of real value to her. Some other cousins had a hardware and appliance store. They went back to take out some things from the store.One man after taking his wife and 3 young daughters upon the hill, went back to town to stock up at the liquor store. Don (Doris' husband) went with the school principal who decided to get his rowboat and oars then changed his mind, put the oars back but took the row boat. By daylight when the flooding didn't materialize, a plane flew over the

area and discovered what had happened. The dam had held but water had sloshed over the dam at the time of the quake. The south end of the lake raised up several feet. It was like water in a basin sloshing around. The mountain fell down into the canyon below the dam and stopped what water went over the dam.

Editor's note. This then became what we know now as Quake Lake.

Montana Trivia Part 8. I recently found some more clues for other towns in Montana that had not yet been included. Get out your maps and here are more clues!

1. River that flows into the Dead Sea
2. Enclosed car
3. Ancient city of the Trojan War
4. City in Holland
5. First name of an English nurse
6. House of worship+a small hill
7. Famous mountain man
8. Snow color+passage way
9. Another name for Bison
10. Brand of cosmetics
11. Made firm
12. A lofty peak
13. Species of deer
14. Bell tower

Answers to Montana Trivia part 7

1. A famous ballet-Swan Lake
2. Solar explosion-Sunburst
3. To hold back-Reserve
4. Book of accounts-Ledger
5. Frying-Browning
6. Before this- Pryor
7. Beside the pond-Lakeside
8. An early wild man-Savage
9. To find-Locate
- 10.A steep small water fall-Cascade
11. Where we would like to go someday-Paradise
12. When the preacher says to the Bride groom "will you...."- Havre
13. A large cascade- Great Falls
14. Girl's names- you can find at least 20
15. Boy's names- you can find at least 24

History Tidbit Cardboard boxes were invented by the Chinese in the 1600's. Probably the first cardboard hideouts for kids and cats came shortly after. If your kids played longer with the box than the new toy it came with, you are not alone.

The **basketball rules** were published in the Triangle Magazine, Springfield, MA, January 15, 1892.

Monopoly is the world's best selling game, which started as The Landlord Game in 1904.

For your reading pleasure

Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson. This book is last year's (2008) One Book Montana selection. It is fiction based on facts. A 16 year old girl inherits a homestead in Eastern Montana and comes West alone to prove up her 340 acres. Setting in Montana in 1918.

Fish out of Water

MVHA has been selected for the "Fish out of Water" fund-raising project. Our fish is a "historical" fish entitled "Carrying the Legacy" depicting history events in the area by artist Christine Blockledge. MVHA will receive 45% of the final bid on this fish at the auction over Labor Day. Check out the website www.madcoedc.org to see a picture of this painted fish. April's Wagon Tongue will contain more detailed information about this project.

Looking ahead

Feb. 19 MVHA meeting at 4:00pm at the downstairs meeting room at the First Madison Valley Bank. Program TBA. Hopefully there will be a program on earthquakes to start our 50th Anniversary of the Madison Earth Quake.

March 19 MVHA meeting at 4:00pm at the down stairs meeting room of the First Madison Valley Bank meeting room. William Ennis birthday party.

History Items for sale

Early Days of the Madison Valley by James Spray \$18.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Order from MVHA P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

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Vice President: Otis Thompson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Co-Secretary: Duane Thexton & Shirley Love
Director: Jimmy Carlson
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)
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The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.
Next issue will be April 2009.
Editor: Shirley Love
Contributing editors:

Doris(Sis) Angle Benschoter Earth Quake story from her memories from Larry Keifer
Barba Rowe Tuss and Hank Rowe letter to Charles "Buck" Crump
Jess Armitage From Progressive Years Madison County, Montana Vol II
Mrs. Raymond Schabarker for Daems history and Harvey Romey and Ben Williams for Kramer history both from Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County, Montana

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 7 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

April 2009

From the Wagon Seat: March came in like a lion and went out like a lion too. But spring is around the corner for sure with all the birds back and all the changes that are taking place. A lot has taken place since the last Wagon Tongue issue in January. The MVHA is in the process of moving the old Madison Valley Clinic to our land for the first History museum in the Madison Valley. The Madison Valley Hospital and Clinic has moved into their new building and the Hospital board offered the clinic building to the MVHA just for the cost of moving it. After much deliberation in just a short period of time, the MVHA board decided it was an opportunity and a step in the right direction for getting a building for a museum. It is already approved to code and is in great shape. At the time of this publication, the foundation has been built and Tamietti House Moving of Butte will move the building during the month of April. The hard part will be getting this building ready for a museum by the summer of 2010. So get your carpenter aprons on, hammers in hand, ideas of how to turn a clinic facility into a museum, and carve out some time so you all can help the MVHA complete this project. Give a board member a call telling us about how you can help. The Angle forge foundation and then the replication of the building is in this project too. In June, after all the cement trucks, moving trucks, etc. have finished their work, Wharton Asphalt will pave the approach according to DOT rules. The drainfield is approved and Shorty Roberts will put that in. Shorty Roberts has been a lot of help on this project and has donated a lot of his expertise and work.

Yes, having an active museum does incur expenses such as electricity, telephone, insurance, and many incidentals so we need to constantly be thinking about raising funds. Everyone needs to be thinking of the MVHA when they want to make a contribution of any kind. 2009 memorials for our departed members and friends have been coming in and each is greatly appreciated. The MVHA is a 501c3 non-profit organization so any moneys given is tax deductible so think BIG. The board is still looking for someone to do grant writing so if you have even just a little expertise, please step forward. The MVHA will appreciate it.

The first annual William Ennis Birthday party Irish Stew Dinner was a huge success. We served about 100 people and made about \$900. A big thank you to stew cooks Jane Rebus, Shirley Gustafston, Manny Hoag and Ann and John White, Cole slaw maker, Shirley Love, Blarney Stone bakers, Pat Hale, Jim Nelson and Shirley Love and Soda Bread bakers, Smithy Overstreet, Phyllis Wasick and Marcia Zankowski. Thanks to Zoe Todd for the Stew recipe, table set up and help with Chamber window and to Dode Baronet for the original inspiration to get this whole project started. Also to the set up committee, the food servers, the money takers, the greeters and last but not least the dish washers and clean up committee. Many hands made light work and everyone's help was greatly appreciated. The party was a great success!!

May 21 will be the annual meeting and the MVHA membership will be electing three directors to the board of directors. Larry Love's, Neil Kent's and Shirley Love's terms expire. If you would like to be considered as a director, please let a board member or the nominating committee (chosen in April) know of your desires. The meeting will be held at 4:00pm at the downstairs meeting room at the First Madison Valley Bank. Looking ahead, don't forget the Muse Historic Music concert on June 19 at 7:00pm Peter T's Park.

Keep in mind your earthquake memory stories, Christmas memory stories, and recipes for the historic cookbook. Also memories of departed friends, relatives and/or history members for the Memories section of the Wagon Tongue are welcomed. The MVHA Museum will open on Memorial Day weekend so plan to volunteer 3 or 4 days or more at the museum this summer. The museum will still be at the temporary museum site at 121 W. Main in the Altimus Wildlife building for this summer as preparations are in progress for the future permanent museum. An exciting and very busy time for the MVHA lies ahead so plan to be part of the action.

Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

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Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

Our Mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____) Student \$5.00 (____) Individual \$10.00 (____) Family \$15.00 (____) Business \$50.00 (____) Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January 2009 issue. Please add to any membership list that you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list for you.

Killingsworth, Teresa & Tom and Audrey Jennings (P)

8401 Old Stage Rd #66
Central Point, Oregon 97502

Engel, Dick & Terry (F)

P.O. Box 1429
Ennis, MT 59729

Sherick, Steve & Doris (F)

4996 Lower Miller Creek Rd
Missoula, MT 59803

Membership Update

2009 memberships have been arriving every day. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents who have passed on. Please help by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories.

The Madison Valley lost a native and a resident for the last years of his life on Dec. 25, 2008 when **Norman Chamberlin** passed on. His family history was published in the October 2008 Wagon Tongue under Chamberlin Homestead. Sister Dode Barnett shared a few additional stories of Norman. Norman would tell the story of the fire in the old gymnasium at the school in Virginia City. The Ennis Fire Department had an old fire truck that

they got from Salt Lake City, Utah as Army Surplus. Norman, Barney Barnett, Jesso Baker, Bud Baker and George Sprout took that old fire truck over the Virginia City hill to help in putting out that fire.

When living in Maryland, Norman brought his girls out one summer. They were in the 7th and 8th grade. There was a grass fire at McAllister up on North (or South) Meadow Creek. Norm said "This is a grass fire. We can all go and help." He rounded up his daughters and all the nieces and off they went, flip flops, shorts and all. They spent part of the day putting dirt on the fire, swatting at the fire with wet gunny sacks, etc. to help put out the fire.

Hazel Marie Saunders, mother of MVHA member, Beverly Saunders Whitman, passed away on Jan. 28, 2009. Hazel was born in Yacolt, WA. on Nov. 3, 1913 daughter of Orval and Florence Grady. Hazel was about 3 months old when her parents moved back to the Madison Valley and she has lived there ever since. Her mother died when we was three and one-half years old, and her father, a local ranch hand, found it difficult to take Hazel with him when he worked so he asked various families in the valley to help him care for her and her brother.

In 1920, when she was about 7 years old she moved to the James Shewmaker home where she lived until she married. Hazel started her school career in the small settlement of Abe near Wall Creek in the upper Madison. When the Abe School was abandoned, she transferred to Ennis where she completed school and graduated from Ennis High School in 1932. She attended one year at Dillon Normal College (now University of Montana Western).

She married the local sports hero, Byron Saunders, on September 3, 1934 at the Ennis Hotel. (now the Blue Heron Antiques and Gifts) She and Byron lived in and helped run the Ennis Hotel. Their two children, Raymon Byron and Beverly Jeanne were born there. At the beginning of World War II the family moved into the Ennis Telephone Office located where the Shedhorn Sports is now. Byron kept the telephone equipment running and strung telephone lines throughout the Madison Valley and Hazel was the friendly telephone operator. They operated the State Liquor Store from 1948-1952, Byron and Hazel took over the Saunders Hotel in 1955 from his mother, Beulah Saunders which they operated until 1979. Information taken from article written by Hazel Saunders in the Progressive Years Madison County, Montana Volume II page 776 and Madisonian Obituary Feb. 4, 2009

Earth Quake Memories cont nued from page 3
Shirley Jeffers Gustafson shared this earthquake memory.

It was a normal morning on the date of August 18, 1959 at the ranch outside of Chinook, MT. Duke was at the Havre Livestock Auction Company and the kids-Greta, David and Gary-did the morning chores and then kept busy with ranch activities. A friend called and heard that there had been an earth quake around the Ennis area the night before. I tried calling my parents Lawrence and Jo Jeffers but the phone lines were down so I called the sheriff departments of both Chinook and Havre and they had no information regarding the earthquake in the Madison Valley. I finally found a Saskatchewan, Canada radio station saying that a powerful earth quake had hit the South end of the Madison Valley and had destroyed Hebgen. Needless to say, I had gone into a panic mode. I called Duke at Havre and told him what had happened and that I was going to go to Ennis to see if my parents were all right as they live on the Madison River. Duke returned to the ranch to take care of the kids. I was on my way to Ennis.

It was a long trip to Ennis and of course your imagination runs away with you. I arrived in Ennis about mid day. The town of Ennis was quiet with everyone moving to higher ground. A Marine stopped me at the bridge but I explained to him that my parents lived across the river. He let me pass as I chuckled to myself--a Marine stopped me and there was but a trickle of water in the Madison River due to the slide that had stopped the Madison.

Mother and Dad were at the ranch but I expected them to be on high ground of the East Bench. They had been there but came back at daybreak when they heard that Hebgen Dam did not break and that a slide had stopped the Madison River flow.

I did not sleep much that night. The next morning Mother and Dad discussed in depth what had happened the night of the quake. They were awakened by a rocking and rolling of the house. They turned on the lights and Mother said that the floor was rolling and walls were weaving so much that she got sea sick. Outside with the porch light on, there was sound of the wind but there was no wind. They noticed the willows were bending almost to the ground as the ground was still rolling under there feet. This all happened in a minute, but the after shocks continued. Mother was still uneasy from the rolling of the earth when some one drove by and said that Hebgen Dam had failed. They hurried up to the bench just east of the ranch. At daybreak, they could see that the Madison Valley was dry and they went back to the ranch to learn that the dam did hold. They were surprised to see that the house received little damage from the quake.

On the 19th, a friend of ours flew Duke and Gary down to the Jeffers Ranch. They flew over 4

the slide area but soon returned as there was lots of planes flying in the area seeing the damage. From the air they could see the Madison River was just a small stream. The river had been blocked by the slide which formed what is now Quake Lake. Dad mentioned that on the eve of the earthquake, he had been outside and noticed the sunset was brilliant red with no clouds in the sky. The evening was quiet with no birds or animals making any noise. It was dead quiet. He was bothered by the stillness of the night as he went to bed that night.

I stayed until the weekend and learned that a person in Ennis missed the warnings of evacuation and went downtown to get his coffee and there was not a person in sight or a dog to greet him. He did not get his coffee. A friend of mine was taking his apprenticeship in the mortuary business and was preparing a person when the quake hit. "My God, he is alive!", running out of the mortuary looking over his shoulder to what he had just witnessed.

That Christmas we went down to Mother and Dad's. We took a day trip down to Quake Lake to see what damage the slide had done. Climbing over rocks and boulders, we could see how the mountain slid and backed up the Madison River to form Quake Lake. As we were walking, Gary saw something shiny. He reached down and picked up an Indian Head nickel. We stood in a moment of silence as we all understood that people were buried below us. Gary still has that nickel to this day.

Earthquake stories for this issue will conclude with this story submitted by **Mary Ann (Neville) Alger**. I, Mary Ann Baker, had just returned to my home at the Riverside Motel. It was about 11:30pm. I had been to a meeting in Virginia City. I went into the dining room where we had set up a bed for my husband's nephew, Michael Speer, to ask him where my husband, Vincent "Bud" Baker was. He said he had gone up to the bar for a drink. About that time I heard an awful roar so I looked out the window for a talc truck or something going by and about that time the floor started to roll and I grabbed the door casing to keep from falling down. Mike got out of his bed and put his pants on. I could never figure out how he did that by the way the floor was rolling. I ran to the stairway to see about my daughters and they met me at the bottom of the stairs. About that time, the door opened and my husband came in. He was worried about the girls, Anita Irene, Ellen Louise and Patricia Ann. We talked for a few minutes and Bud and Mike took our truck and drove the streets in town looking for fires.

We had gas tanks in our backfield that belonged to Jack Northway and we could hear them rocking back and forth.

The chickens in the neighborhood chicken yards were all out of their houses and crowing .

Mary Ann Baker story continued on page 5

For Your Reading Pleasure

Shallow Diggins Tales from Montana's

Ghost Towns Compiled by Jean Davis This is compilation of stories grouped around approximately a hundred of Montana's ghost towns. Available at the Madison Valley Public Library and the MVHA museum for "in house use" and possibly available at some other libraries as interlibrary loan.

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Looking Ahead

May 21, 4:00pm Annual meeting at 4:00pm at the First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room Program TBA

June 18, 4:00pm Monthly meeting at 4:00pm at the First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room. Program TBA This meeting is for all the "snow birds" who miss the winter meetings.

June 19, 7:00pm MVHA is helping to co-sponsor with the Friends of the Madison Valley Public Library the celtic music group, The Muse, playing *The Ballad as History*. They explore historical events and how they are recorded in song MVHA will help sell tickets and will share in the profits of this concert so plan to attend and help out in selling tickets and promoting this event.

July is tentatively set aside for a field trip but details are still to be worked out depending on availability of the leader.

August 20, Field trip to Madison Valley Earthquake site Details in July WT.

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Next issue will be July 2009.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

Don "Kid" Neville Earthquake memory

Shirley (Jeffers) Gustafson Earthquake mem

Mary Ann (Neville) Alger Earthquake mem

Hazel Saunders From Progressive Years

Madison County, Montana Vol II page 776

Earnest Vincent and M. Elaine (Vincent)

Sprout Herb and M. Elaine Sprout From

Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County,

Montana Vol II pages 699, 700

Carol Hacker H Brand by Paul M. Jeffers

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, Montana 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 7 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

July 2009

From the Wagon Seat The MVHA Board was reorganized in June after the annual meeting in May. Otis Thompson took over the reins as the Wagon Master (President), Jimmy Carlson as the Ramrod (Vice President), Duane Thexton as the Scout (Secretary), Neil Kent as the Payroll Master (Secretary), and "Smitty" Overstreet, Larry Love, and John White as the trail hands (the other Board directors.) Larry was reelected to the Board and John White is a newly elected Board director.

Keep "Smitty" Overstreet in your prayers as she recuperates from serious back problems. She is presently residing in the Madison Valley Medical Center and is always happy to have visitors.

One of my first actions as the "Wagon Master" was to appoint Larry Love chairman of the building committee. He was so instrumental in getting the old Hospital Clinic moved to our property west of Ennis that we did not want to lose the momentum that he has begun. Larry will see that this project stays on track. As you drive by our site four miles west of Ennis, you will notice that the building is setting on a new foundation and by the time you read this, there should be a new entrance to the building on the east side and a new roof on the building. Several MVHA members worked one day, cleaning up the inside of the building and tearing the old shingles off the roof. Brian Lovett Construction has been doing the contractor work. As soon as the new roof, porch, and siding are on the building, MVHA members will be called upon to begin our work with remodeling the interior. Many members have been instrumental in getting all this work done and I offer all my thanks to them. I will not mention them individually for fear of leaving someone out, but you all know who you are. Thank you.

The Fourth of July has come and gone. Your MVHA made its presence felt with a humorous entry into the parade. The J.R. Pasley family recently donated the Modern Woodmen of America's initiation goat (from about 1910) to the MVHA and we placed our resident cowboy dummy on the goat and he rode it in the parade. Thanks to Larry Love for pulling our float with his 1950 International Harvester Demonstrator tractor, and thanks to Don "Kid" Neville and Karen Shores who rode with me on the float. Don and Karen were such a hit that we won second prize in the silliest float division and third prize in the local float division. And thanks to all those who helped put this fun float together.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Madison Earthquake and to celebrate this occasion, our August field trip will be a trip through the earthquake area on August 20. Our hosts will be Jackie and Wally Eagle of West Yellowstone. Watch the *Madisonian* and e mailings for details on this field trip.

The Madison County Economic Development Council (MCEDC) has tentatively set the date for the live auction for "Fish Out of Water" sculptures for the first weekend in September. This project will raise funds to be divided between MCEDC and local charities. The MVHA will be the recipient of one of these sales. Go to the web site www.madcoedc.org/fish.htm to check out these sculptures and to place a silent bid if you so desire. The MVHA board has been promoting this project to try to encourage someone or some business/organization to make a bid on the sculpture designated for the MVHA.

With the "beast" still attracting people to visit our museum, attendance has been quite good. The Wildlife Museum is also open where people can see most of the wildlife of Montana in a natural setting. But we do need help to keep the museum open Tuesday through Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. If you would like to help out either with a 3 hour or 6 hour shift, contact Zoe Todd at 682-4360.

If you would like to read some of our earlier *Wagon Tongue* issues, we have Volumes 4-7 posted on our web site at www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org.

We recently received an anonymous donation of \$1000, so a big thank you to whomever you are. Remember, we need all of you to help us preserve the history of the Madison Valley. Any contributions you can make (time, materials, or money) will be greatly appreciated.

Let's keep the wagons rolling. Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

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Applegate, Liz and Bill (F)

#3 Hilltop Trail 682-3288
Ennis, MT 59729

Brooks, Kathryn (I)

5 Jeffers Road 682-4840
Ennis, MT 59729

Holland, Gene (I)

P.O. Box 998 285-6574
Three Forks, MT 59752

Reints, Marlene (I)

81 Jeffers Road 682-4380
Ennis, MT 59729

Membership Update

2009 memberships have been arriving every day. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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Longtime Alaska resident and Madison Valley native, **Frederick (Fay) Kohls** passed away January 1, 2009 at the Juneau Pioneer's Home after an extended illness. He was 85.

Born on March 16, 1923 to William "Tuffy" Ray and Altha Marie (Baker) Kohls at the Oliver Place, three miles north of Ennis, Montana. He was named in honor of his father's brother, Lucius Fay who went to the Spanish American War at the age of 16.

When Lucius was returning home after the war was over, he became ill with typhoid fever. They wanted to put him in a hospital in San Francisco, but he wanted to come home. When he arrived in Butte, he was too ill to make the trip to Virginia City. His parents, Frederick Fritz and Virginia Belle (Kellog) Kohls met him there, but he died a few days later at the age of 18.

Fay's family moved to Ennis when Fay was four years old and he graduated from high school in 1941. In high school, his activities were principally academic, although he played bass horn with the first Ennis High Band and was a skier. In eighth grade, after Fay was rejected as a dance partner by his prom date (what really hurt, he said, was the agony of his father's requirement that he gain the consent of the girl's father to take her to the prom), he went on to master a variety of dances, including the Big Apple, the Lambeth Walk, the jitterbug, and even the Waltz. Thereafter he became much pursued as a dancing partner by other high school coeds and he was known for his dancing prowess for the rest of his life.

Fred, as he became known, enrolled in Montana State College in 1941 to study mechanical engineering and play the bass horn in the Bobcat Band. He was then called to active duty in the Army Air Corps in April 1943. He spent the next two and a half years in the B-29 bomber groups in the Pacific, including service in combat intelligence units at Saipan and Iwo Jima. After his discharge the day before Christmas in 1945, he returned to Ennis and on August 10, 1946, he along with lifelong friends, Jeff Jeffers and Gil (Buster) Saunders, sailed from Seattle for Alaska, to enroll in the University of Alaska.

A year later, Fred and five college friends dropped out of school for a year to drive the PanAmerican Highway in two jeeps from Fairbanks to Patagonia at the tip of South America. Although they did not make their intended destination, they did reach Buenos Aires, Argentina, before Fred returned to Fairbanks to resume his college studies, graduating in 1951 with a degree in General Science.

After graduation, Fred joined several Alaskan colleagues who formed the Geo-Science Corp. in Maryland to study the physics of the upper atmosphere, marketing low brightness photometers and research in sodium flare and twilight. In April 1957, Fred returned to Alaska, joining the Territorial Department of Public Works and Highways (now the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities) as a traffic engineer in Anchorage.

In 1962 Fred moved to Juneau and later served as the supervisor of data processing for the Dept of Transportation's road design. On February 19, 1966, Fred married Juneau attorney, Shirley Meuwissen, with Shirley's friend, **(cont. on pg 3)**

(Memories cont from page 2)

the late Marjory Hulzer, as matron of honor and Jeff Jeffers as Fred's best man. Their son, Kevin born on November 15, 1967, died in 1983 at the age of 15 from a cancerous brain tumor. Fred retired in June 1983 after more than 26 years of service to the State of Alaska.

by Gordon E. Evans and submitted by Shirley Meuwisen Kohls and from Pioneer Trails and Trials, Madison County, Montana

Madison Valley resident and native, **Ruth Womack** passed away June 15, 2009 at the Madison Valley Manor at the age of 83.

Ruth was born on her parent's homestead, the Lichte ranch on July 11, 1925 in Abe, MT located along the upper Madison.

In August of 1912, Ruth's father, Clarence W. Lichte, at the age of 21, decided to go to Montana from Ivanhoe, Minn. to look for a homestead. He returned to Minnesota after a discouraging search around Dillon, Mt. In September he came to Bozeman, Mt. and the land office there told him to see a section above Ennis south of Ruby Creek. This area looked promising, so Clarence applied and later settled there.

The first years Clarence spent along the Madison River he lived in a tent with another tent to serve as a barn for his horses. The winter months were long and cold and comforts and conveniences few. Esther Neilsen told of corresponding with Clarence at that time. When writing his letters in the evening, he told how the ink would freeze in his pen.

One time when Clarence's mother, Emma, was visiting, a decision was made as to where the buildings on the ranch would be located. Lumber was brought in from Sheridan, MT. The following spring, Clarence bought cattle and ran them until he enlisted in the U.S. Army, WWI. During Clarence's absence, the home was used for a summer school. The older school boys watered a newly planted tree grove and kept it alive until Clarence's return. Clarence and Esther Neilson from Albert Lea, Minn. were married in July, 1921. Mrs Lichte was a registered nurse, Her profession helped her to care for her children as well as take care of the many emergencies that occurred in the wide spread rural area of what was then called Abe, Mt.

Ruth went to first grade in a one-room school on Ruby Creek and continued her education in Virginia City, MT graduating in 1943. She then got a teaching degree from Eastern Montana College in Billings. This lead to a teaching job at Manhattan, Mt. as a second grade teacher. In 1947 she married Pete Womack under one of the trees in the grove of trees carefully watered on the Lighte ranch. From Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County, Montana

written by Esther Lichte and Obituaries, *Madisonian* June 24, 2009

Memorials for 2009 Thanks to all of you who have given memorials and please think of the MVHA for future memorial giving. Memorials since April 09:

Martha Sprout (4 memorials)

Madison Valley Earthquake

2009 is the Anniversary year of the Madison Valley Earthquake which occurred on August 17, 1959 at 11:37pm. Earthquake stories continue with the following:

My Recollections of the 1959 Earthquake by Otis Thompson

It was August 13, 1959, and the Thompson boys (Lyonald, Orvil, and Otis) had just finished up with their first cutting hay stacking contracts with Thexton's (Don and Tom) and Girard's (now the Bar-7 and at that time managed by Wilbur Powell). Lyonald would soon be returning to his teaching job at Sheridan High School, Orvil would be starting his first year of college at Western Montana College, and I (Otis) would be returning to high school at Ennis as a Sophomore. This was a perfect time for the family to take a small vacation, so Ward (our father), Maxine (our mother), and four kids (Orvil, Otis, Billy, and Becky-Jo) loaded up our 1955 Ford and headed to Yellowstone Park.

The first day of their trip took us through Yellowstone Park and we stayed that night at a cabin in Cooke City. Early the next morning, we traveled over the Cooke City Highway and on to Billings and then Hardin. We spent the afternoon at Custer's Battlefield and then traveled on down to Mom's sister, Doris Baker, and our three cousins who lived in Buffalo, Wyoming. We spent a couple of days there, and early on the morning of August 17, we loaded up and headed back to Montana.

We took the road from Buffalo through Cody and entered Yellowstone Park late that afternoon. Since it was getting late, Dad decided we would spend the night in the Park. We were not equipped to camp out, so we stopped at the Yellowstone Lake Lodge to see if we could get a cabin. This was a Monday and most of the weekend tourists were gone, so we were lucky enough to get one cabin with two beds and a cot. Us three boys slept in one bed, Mom and Dad in the other bed, and Becky-Jo got the cot.

That evening the family went over to the Lodge where they were having a dance. We watched for awhile and then went back to the cabin about 9 pm and went to bed. I was such a sound sleeper I never knew we had an earthquake that night.

(Cont on page 4)

My Recollections from page 3

When I awoke the next morning, there was a lot of commotion at the Lodge and around the cabins. Everyone was excited and talking about the earthquake that happened that night. When we went to the Lodge to check out, another tremor hit and I felt that one.

We heard all kinds of rumors that morning. First we heard that Hebgen Dam had broken and flooded the town of Ennis. Later in the morning while we were at Old Faithful we heard that the dam had broken, but God had spared the town of Ennis by damming up the river with a huge earth slide in the canyon.

We could not call anybody in Ennis to let them know we were all okay since the phones were all tied up. Anyway, it would not have done us any good to get to a phone since we did not have a phone back at the ranch and nobody was left in the town of Ennis to call. So Dad decided we had better head for Ennis. He checked with the Park rangers and they told us we would not be able to get out of the Park to get to Ennis. Just as we were leaving the Old Faithful area, one of the rangers told us that the road to Gardiner had just been cleared and we would be able to get out of the Park that way. So we headed to Gardiner, stopping in Gardiner to look at the elk and buffalo that were penned up there. (Dad always had to stop and take pictures of any elk and buffalo we saw.)

We arrived in Bozeman about 6 pm and stopped and had some supper. We mentioned to the waitress that we were headed to Ennis, and she told us we had better report to the Sheriff's office if we were going through the Madison canyon since the status of the Hebgen Dam and the possible flooding was still in question. Dad stopped and talked to someone at the Sheriff's office and they said they thought it would be okay if we went to Ennis via the Bear Trap canyon. We left Bozeman about 7 pm and when we made it to the Madison river, I know us kids were on the edge of our seats looking out to see if a big wall of water was coming at us. Once we cleared the canyon, I know all of us kids gave a big sigh of relief.

We pulled into the ranch sometime before 9 pm and were we shocked. The ranch, located about 5 miles west of Ennis off the Virginia City Highway (where Mel McKittrick now lives), was like a little city. Our Thompson relatives who lived in Ennis (Grandmother, Uncle Lyal, Uncle Owenford, their families) and many of their friends had packed up and moved to the ranch. Even our maternal grandparents, Jim and Ivel Bogue, who lived in Opportunity, had come to the ranch to see if we were all okay.

Sometime after 9 pm, we were all sitting in the kitchen of our home and another tremor shook the

place. With all the excitement of the day, we all had a hard time getting to sleep that night.

The next morning, Dad and Lyonald went with several other relatives up to the slide area to help in whatever way they could. By this time, everyone had learned that the slide had covered the campground in the Madison canyon and the volunteers would be searching for bodies. Dad would not let me go. He said that was no place for kids. That evening, when they returned from the slide area, Dad and Lyonald told us what they had seen: cars that were demolished and camping gear and clothing scattered about.

What a way to end a vacation. This was the first vacation I can remember we ever took that was several days in length. Later we all joked about how doing something out of the ordinary really "shook things up."

From Carl Yeckel: I was in San Diego, California, about to board a ship bound for Okinawa. Phil and Susie had come out to see (wave good-bye) me off. A call came to Phil concerning the quake. He quickly left for the Valley. As it turned out the only damage sustained on the Jumping Horse Ranch was that created by Jane Yeckel as she drug a mattress through the house so she could sleep in the yard. Elsie Cunningham came up later next morning to help Jane RESTORE (haul out broken dishes and a couple of chairs) the house before Phil got home.

From Dixie Robison Marosok: We were married in August of 1958 and my husband, Jim, enrolled at Montana State College in Bozeman where he could work toward a degree in geology. When spring arrived, we were looking for a summer job and my sister, Jerry Lower, called. She and her husband, Don, worked on the Cedar Creek Ranch for John Uihlein just outside of Ennis. (John was an heir to Schlitz beer). Don offered Jim a summer job and Jerry offered me the job of sharing cooking duties for the ranch crew. We gladly accepted and on the 17th of August, we were living at the Cedar Creek Ranch in the same range of mountains as the earthquake site, the Madison Range.

We had a busy day on Aug. 17th preparing for John Uihlein's 40th birthday which fell the next day. I was expecting our first baby in early September and was tired and anxious to finish and get some sleep. It took some time to settle down after the hectic day and the night was very still and quiet. Just a couple of hours after going to bed, I was awakened by the rocking and shaking of our bed. I woke Jim, saying that a bear had crawled under the cabin. He laughed at me as he was immediately aware that it was an earthquake, and we rushed to look out the window. **(cont on page 5)**

Earthquake (cont from page 4)

The earth was rippling in waves like a windblown lake as the tremors moved through the grass. I will never forget that sight. As we attempted to get back to sleep, I began to experience some early labor pains. We were getting ready to call Doc. Losee when the pains finally stopped and we returned to bed.

The next morning the valley was full of dust and up on the mountains you could see clouds of dirt raising above the trees. Aftershocks continued through the day. As people began arriving for John's party, we learned of the earthquake site and the tragic slide that buried and injured so many campers. We were also told of the closure of the road through Ennis. Thankfully we hadn't needed the hospital since it was on the opposite side of the river and with the road closed, we couldn't have reached it. Reports came in that many people had fled to high ground and some even took refuge in Virginia City across the mountains.

John's party went as planned but all everyone could think of was the earthquake and the tragedy of the rock slide that killed so many people in the canyon campgrounds.

Within three weeks I was in the hospital where Doc Losee delivered our first son, Michael. I had some unusual visitors along with my family. Two or three of the quake victims remained in the small Madison Valley Hospital for some time after the earthquake. I remember a boy, a tall and husky football player, about 17 years of age, whose leg had been badly crushed. The Bozeman doctors wanted to amputate his leg, but Doc Losee, who received extra training as an orthopedist just before the quake, insisted he could save the limb. The boy was walking when I last saw him and I believe he did heal under Doc Losee's care.

Our father, Wayne Robison, was among the early rescuers at the earth slide scene and he is pictured in the book, The Day the Mountain Fell. The Robison ranch, the Green acre, was on the other side of the valley and none of our family had felt the quake with the intensity that we felt it. They related that they were driving home from a movie in Ennis and they felt the car lurch to one side about the time of the earthquake, but thought nothing of it.

The family ranch had a grazing permit just a few miles from the epicenter of the quake in an area called Antelope Basin. A pipeline from Hidden Lake took water from the lake up a steep mile long hill for the cattle on the reserve. When they went up to check the pipeline, it was laying broken in pieces like a bunch of spaghetti straws.

With the river at such a low level, many of the famous Madison Valley trout were stranded in small pools of water. Don, Jim and my father did some fishing with their hands and came home with a good

mess of fish for dinner. Jim had the luckiest catch of the day, a 2 and one half foot rainbow trout.

Editors note: Thanks for all the earthquake stories. They will become part of an earthquake memories booklet at the museum. Any more earthquake stories submitted will be printed in the July 2010 Wagon Tongue for the 51st anniversary.

July 4th Parade by J. Hal Pasley

I take my stool and head downtown
I hope I find some shade
To sit and check the entries
in the July 4th parade
I find a perfect place to sit
how lucky can I be
And then some folks come by
and stand right in front of me
I think the show has started
the announcer's voice I heard
Speaking through the same old mike
that distorts every word
I hear the thunder of their hooves
the horses fill the street
Unloading all their breakfast
on the other horse's feet
And right behind the horses
I just fell off my stool
When I saw this buxom cowgirl
riding backwards on a mule
And then a team and wagon
with a half a load of hay
And right behind the wagon
was the entry Diamond J
A bus so big and bulky
that it almost filled the street
The grinning, waving eastern dudes
had filled up every seat
And then an antique car goes by
I've seen this one before
In fact i've seen it so many times
it has become a bore
I hear the drums, I hear the horns
I hear Saint Louie blues
The high school band is marching
with manure on their shoes
Well here they come
they always do
The entry of the day
They're welcomed by the cheering crowd
the ladies butt display
The lady on the black horse
has a bottom like a tub
But the one who rides the bay
has a butt shaped like a ball
And the little girl who rides the roan
she has no butt at all
And then the army boys go by
they're veterans no doubt
Their uniforms fit then so tight
their tummies stick right out

There is more but you will have to read it at the library or museum!!

For Your Reading Pleasure

Great Montana Earthquake by L. W. Link

Soft cover 94 page book that is a very good account of the 1959 Madison Valley Earthquake Available at Three Forks Library and possibly interlibrary loan.

The Night the Mountain Fell: The Story of the Montana Yellowstone Earthquake by Edmund

Christopherson Short informative little book. Available at Madison Valley Public Library

Fish out of Water

MVHA has been selected for the "Fish out of Water" fund-raising project. Our fish is a "historical" fish entitled "Carrying the Legacy" depicting history events in the area by artist Christine Blockledge. MVHA will receive 45% of the final bid on this fish at the auction over Labor Day. Check out the website www.madcoedc.org or the MVHA website listed on first page to see a picture of this painted fish. It is the responsibility of the MVHA to obtain a minimum bid to get the bidding started on this fundraiser so talk this up or make a bid so a minimum bid will soon be in place.

Looking ahead

MVHA temporary museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Volunteers are needed so stop by the museum to sign up or call Zoe Todd at 682-4360.No one can visit and enjoy the museum if the doors are locked.

August 20 Field trip to Madison Valley Earthquake sites. Meet at the museum at 121 W. Main at 10:00am to car pool.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, MT 59729

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
Board of Directors**

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Vice President: Jimmy Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

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The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be October 2009.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

Gordon E. Evans and Shirley Kohls Memories of Frederick Fay Kohls

Esther Lichte From Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County, Montana and Madisonian

June 25, 2009 for Memories of Ruth Womack

Otis Thompson My Recollections of the 1959 Earthquake

Carl Yeckel Earth Quake Memories
Dixie Robison Marosok Earth Quake

Memories
J. Hal Pasley July 4th Parade

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 7 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

October 2009

From the Wagon Seat:

Summer is over, fall is here, and winter is just around the corner. The MVHA is back with its regularly scheduled program with members meeting the third Thursday of each month at 4 pm at the First Madison Valley Bank. We have some exciting programs lined up, so watch for their announcement in the *Madisonian*.

We have been busy working on our Museum building. The new roof is on, a porch was added, electricity is now to the building, and we are now back filling around the building. We had a great work party in September who tore the old siding off the building and tore down some temporary walls inside the building to make a larger open display area. We are now in the process of getting the siding ordered and hope to have it up by the end of October. I want to thank all those members who have helped but I won't mention anyone by name for fear that I would leave someone out. As a fund raiser for this project, the MVHA will be selling boards in the "Walk of Names" at the Museum on which names (and your brand, if you have one) will be engraved. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, any donation you make to the MVHA is tax deductible, so honor your Madison Valley ancestors (and yourself) by having their names (and yours) displayed as a sponsor for this worthy project.

A group of MVHA volunteers journeyed to Bozeman in August to retrieve some old farm machinery (two horse drawn mowers and a dump rake) that has been donated to the Museum and will become part of our permanent display. If any of you know of other such artifacts that are "rusting" away somewhere, contact one of the board members and we will try to acquire it for our Museum. We have plenty of room to display these artifacts at our new location.

We had two wonderful field trips this past summer. On August 20, twenty members journeyed to the Madison Earthquake site and had an enjoyable outing reliving some of the excitement from that event that occurred 50 years ago. On September 17, eighteen members journeyed to Whitehall to visit the Jefferson Valley Museum. The staff at the Jefferson County Museum were excellent hosts and passed on many suggestions and ideas as we plan our new facility.

The Madison County Economic Development Council (MCEDC) "Fish Out of Water" art auction is now history. The sculpture that was assigned to the MVHA sold for \$4250 (of which the MVHA received \$1912.50.) A big thank you goes out to the MCEDC staff for all their efforts on our behalf and to Bullwinkle's Restaurant in West Yellowstone for purchasing this piece.

MVHA is registered with the Montana State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign in which all 13,000+ state employees are invited to give to their choice of non-profit organizations. If you are or you know someone who is a state employee, encourage them to mark the MVHA as the choice for the 2010 payroll deduction giving. A special thanks for Larry Love and John and Ann White who set up and managed a booth for the MVHA at this Campaign's annual kickoff drive in Helena on October 2.

Gary Forney, historical author about Madison County, has been contacted by Arcadia Publishing to do a picture history book of Madison Valley. This book will consist of roughly 200 images along with captions for each, and some introductory text as well. The MVHA board has agreed to assist Gary in writing this book and Gary has graciously acknowledged our support by donating all the royalties from this book to the MVHA. But we need your help. If you have any early day photos of people or happenings in Madison Valley, please contact Gary or any board member so these can be considered for inclusion in this book. Besides the standard photos, the images can also include artifacts and ephemera from the early days of Madison Valley.

As we continue to work on the Museum building, pass along any ideas you may about its organization to any board member. Let's keep the wagons rolling. Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July 2009 issue. Please add to any membership list that you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list for you.

Hughes, Robert R.(I)

2342 Paramount (253)350-0131
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Hutton, Phillip (I)

2920 Sonaran Ct.
Richland, WA 99352-2176

Thomas, Eugene (Gene) (I)

2408 S. Morning Sun Ct. (208)412-3658
Nampa, ID 83686

Membership Update

2009 memberships have been arriving every day. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patron. If your memberships comes due before the next Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail to MVHA at P.O. Box 747, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories.

Longtime Madison Valley and Ennis resident, **Ruth M.(Matzick) Bouchard**, age 88, passed away Aug. 27, 2009 at Bozeman, Mt. Ruth was born to

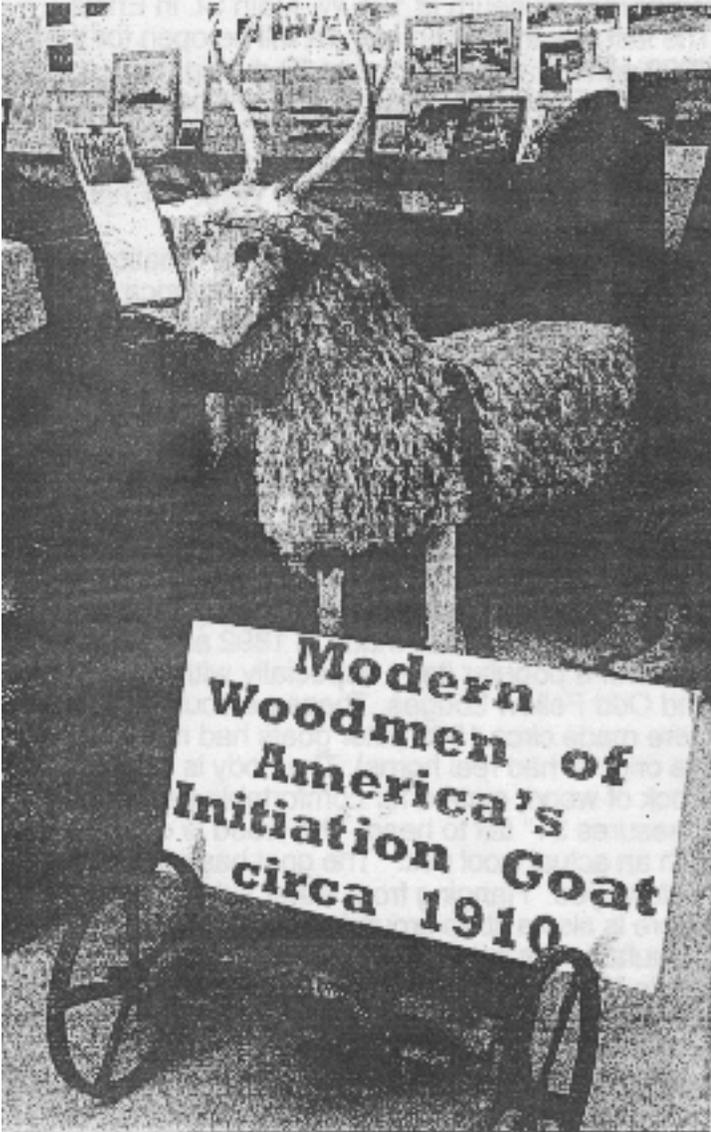
Max Leo Matzick and Rosebud (Woodin) Matzick. Her father came to Montana in 1915 and he worked as a ranch hand, mechanic and construction worker when the road was being built over the Norris Hill. Ruth's mother, Rosebud Woodin, was born in Missouri, moved with her family in 1908 to Washington State and then she came to stay with her sister, Mrs. Nelson in 1917. That same year, Max met Rosebud Woodin, sister-in-law of J. Porter Nelson. She was working in Porter's garage office. They met under the Christmas tree in the old Woodman Hall and were married on May 20, 1918. Max joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA and got as far as New York City, in route to France, when the Armistice was signed. After being mustered out, Max returned to Ennis, where Ruth Marie was born on Aug. 28 1920. Dr. Clancy, the resident physician, was in attendance. Ruth's father was then employed by the State Fish and Game Department and Ruth and her family moved to Somers where Ruth was raised at the fish hatchery on Flathead Lake. Ruth graduated from Ennis High School in 1938. In 1939 Ruth moved to Cut Bank. During WWII, she worked at Prince Rupert, BC for the U.S. Government. She later moved to Great Falls where she worked for Home Oil and Refinery and then was transferred to Spokane to work for Phillips Petroleum. She married Edmond Bouchard on August 29, 1959 at William's Lake, B.C. They then lived in Ogdensburg, New York. Upon retiring, they returned to Ennis in 1970. From the Sept. 3, 2009 Madisonian and The Madison County Trails and Trials. pg 121 "Max Leo Matzick" by Ruth Matzick Bouchard.

Madison Valley and Ennis native, **Elwin L Grady**, 93, passed away Sept. 24, 2009, in Great Falls, Mt Elwin was born to Orval and Florence Grady on May 3, 1916 in Ennis, Mt. Elwin's father, Orval, was born in Missouri and at the age of 15 left home. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad in New Mexico and after receiving a badly broken leg in a train wreck, he decided to find another occupation. What brought him to Montana, daughter Hazel Grady Saunders, did not know but he had a cousin Johnnie Grady living here. Orval filed on a homestead on the Cameron Flats about 1905 and later sold it to Mr. Cameron. He spent most of his life working as a ranch hand on large ranches in the valley, namely the Tom Call ranch, Henry Buford, Cummingham & Biering and the Wrightman-Lawton. Orval married Florence A. Lester of Michigan in Virginia City, Mt. Of this union two children were born-Hazel Marie Grady Saunders (see Wagon Tongue April 2009) and Elwin Lester Grady. Florence died when Elwin was 11 months old and he was raised by his father's cousin, John and Lulu Grady.

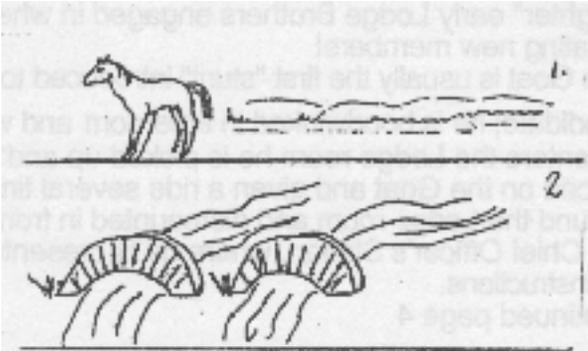
(continued page 3)

Continued from page 3

The Wagon Tongue and the MVHA would like to have your stories about the Woodman Hall, the Woodman Fraternal Society and the initiation goat. Please share.



Thanks to Kevin (Williams) Brenneke the Wagon Tongue has a new **Montana Trivia**. Name these Montana towns or cities. Answers and more Trivia in January 2010 Wagon Tongue



2009 Museum Update

Our guest book at the museum is not an exact science because some of the volunteers forget to ask the guests to sign the book and some guests just do not like to sign guest books. And some sign but do not record where they are from. But with the facts that we do have, the MVHA museum for the 2009 summer saw a very busy tourist season. 800 or more guests visited and signed the guest book. Visitors from Montana led the list with 178 signed guests with 18 of those Montanans from our great community of Ennis. Washington State lead the way of the rest of the states with 72 visitors, Utah with 58, Idaho with 50 and California with 46. Thirty six other states that recorded guests had numbers from 26 down to 1. We had 16 guests from Canada, 5 from Australia, 3 from England, 2 from Germany, 2 from Ireland and one guest each from Chile, Taiwan and Rep. of Belerus, States with no guests recorded were Hawaii, Michigan, New Hampshire, Mississippi, New Jersey and Vermont. If you did not have the opportunity to visit the MVHA museum this summer, definitely plan to visit the new museum next summer.

Our museum and volunteers shared a lot of Montana and Madison Valley History with folks from all over and that is what museums are all about. Now we just have to figure out how to get folks from some of those states who didnt visit to come to our Madison Valley.

A great big thank you to all our many MVHA volunteers who helped keep the museum open on a regular basis this summer. 11 volunteers were needed each week for 3 hour time periods. Special thanks to Zoe Todd, Vern Thibideaux and Shirley Love who shared the scheduling duties doing a month each. Thanks to all the volunteers who signed up or said yes or returned the phone message when called by a scheduler. You made their day and made the day of a guest who stopped by the museum and found it open.

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History Tidbits

The two mile trip to Jeffers was the shortest Ennis High School football team road trip.

The oldest brand recorded in Madison County was George Thexton's. "Otis Thompson's dad always told Duane Thexton as a little kid that GT stood for 'Grandma Thexton', when it actually stood for 'George Thexton'? Duane actually believed him for a little while." Thexton quote provided by Duane Thexton

Fort Benton was the nearest US Government Military protection for the Madison Valley settlers in 1867. History Tidbits provided by Don Black

For Your Reading Pleasure

Since the MVHA and author, Gary Forney, have started on a project to do a pictorial book of the Madison Valley, you might take some time and look at books already published by Arcadia Publishing. www.arcadiapublishing.com

Images of America Red Lodge by John Clayton and the Carbon County Historical Society

Looking Ahead

November 19 4:00pm monthly meeting First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room
Program: Dr Jeff Safford speaking about all sorts of interesting items in the history of Sterling.

December Date and time TBA Christmas Social

January 21 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank Downstairs meeting room. Program Jacqui Marotta, Woman of the Bozeman Trail.

Walk of Names The MVHA will be doing the handicapped ramp and any other walkways around the new museum with boards engraved with donor names and brands. A board with a name engraved will be \$40 and adding a brand will be an additional \$10. The order blank for the Walk of Names is not ready for this issue but will appear in the January 2010 issue. Be thinking of names you will want on a board, about how to honor a deceased family member or how to acknowledge a long standing Madison Valley family name or series of names on this Walk of Names. This will be your opportunity to be a part of the history of the Madison Valley. Stay tuned for details.

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The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be January 2010. Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: John White Story of our Name about the Modern Woodman and the Early DeMoulin
Goat riding Trike from internet research

Ruth Matzick Bouchard from Madison County Trails and Trials page 121

Madisonian Sept. 3, 2009 obituary of Ruth Matzick Bouchard

Sept.9, 1927 Old Timer Vists County Seat

Hazel Grady Saunders from Madison County Trails and Trials Charles Orval Grady pg. 64

Elwin L. Grady from Madison County Trails and Trials John M Grady pg 64

Great Falls Tribune Sept. 29,'09 Obituary for Elwin L. Grady
Jan Smith *Bear Creek schoolhouse celebrates landmark anniversary*

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 8 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

January 2010

From the Wagon Seat:

A new year has started and this promises to be an exciting year for your Madison Valley History Association. Our museum building is fast approaching completion. Other than some landscaping, the outside of the building is completed. We have had great support this past year from several of the local contractors who have helped us get the building in "tiptop" shape. All of the plumbing and electrical work is completed and now volunteers from our membership are working to finish the inside walls, then clean and paint each of the rooms, and install some carpet in the main area. We plan to move our display items into the museum during the month of March, so we will be soliciting help your help to make this move.

The "Walk of Names" project is doing very well, with over 40 boards already purchased by individuals and more coming in everyday. This is an excellent way to honor your family or business, so look on page 5 in this issue for an order blank to make your name a part of this project. Remember, your contribution is tax deductible.

We recently acquired an old X-ray machine from the Manhattan museum. This will become part of the permanent display in our "medical room."

Our fall programs were wonderful. In October, Janet Zimmerman presented "Songs We Used to Sing" and everyone enjoyed themselves singing along with Janet. In November, Dr. Jeff Safford from the MSU history department gave a presentation on the gold camp of Sterling. We so enjoyed his program that we invited him back to do another program in April. Our Christmas potluck dinner was a rousing success with everyone enjoying the delicious foods provided by our membership. By the time you read this, Jacqui Marotta will have given the January program *The Women of the Bozeman Trail*. This program was funded by Humanities Montana, the Montana Cultural Trust, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In February, we tentatively have scheduled Steve Morehouse, the co-author of the Beaverhead County history picture book, to give a presentation on how that book was put together. This should assist us as we work with Gary Forney to create the Madison Valley picture history book. On March 17, the MVHA will again honor Ennis's founding father, William Ennis, with an Irish Stew dinner. As mentioned earlier, Dr Safford will be our April featured speaker. And then in May, we will have our annual potluck dinner with the election of new board members.

Speaking of new board members, we need to elect three board members in May; two for three year terms (Jimmy Carlson and Otis Thompson's terms expire) and one for a one year term (to replace Smitty Overstreet.) If you are interested in serving on the board, let any board member know and your name will be passed on to the nominating committee when it is appointed.

As most of you know Smitty Overstreet is in the Pioneer Medical Center in Big Timber where her son, Jim, lives. Her address is printed on page 6 under member news. She loves to hear from her MVHA friends, so send her a note or give her a call.

MVHA has received several monetary donations this past year and we really appreciate the support we continue to get from our members. Remember, we are a 501(c)(3) organization, so all donations are tax deductible. The board is pursuing several grant possibilities to assist us in getting our new museum up and running. If you have any ideas as to how our new museum should be organized, contact any board member with your ideas. This plans to be an exciting year, so "let's keep the wagons rolling."

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

History Trivia The first commercial TV station west of the Mississippi River was KTLA, Hollywood, CA which began operations Jan. 22, 1947 at 8:30 pm from a converted garage. Just 63 short years ago tomorrow.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the October issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list for you.

Diède, Connie Segota (Benefactor)

P.O. Box 801 (682-4188)

Ennis, MT 59729

Segota, Steven (Benefactor)

P.O. Box 801

Ennis, MT 59729

MVHA member, **William E. Poole** passed away of cancer on Oct. 21, 2009. He and his wife, Ingrid, sold the Sun Ranch in 1993 and retained the undeveloped Hutchins homestead property. Stories and memories are welcomed about these two gentlemen.

Snowdrift Hospitality-More on the winter of '48-'49 by June Haigh, MVHA member

If you want to know how long someone has been in southwestern Montana, just mention the winter of '48-'49: 1900 of course. I was in the middle of my junior year at Montana State College (now University) in Bozeman, Montana. It was Christmas vacation and my younger brother, Bob, and I decided to put in our elk hunting camp at Trail Fork of Bear Creek, near the Ranger Station southeast of Ennis, Montana. We had hunted some there before, but had not camped.

In those years, elk would migrate west from the Gallatin River Drainage and Yellowstone National Park through Manley Pass into the Trail Fork of Bear Creek. The famous Sphinx Mountain (locally called 'Old Red') is to the northeast of the Manley Pass. The migration seemed to be triggered by cold and snow and this year it happened to coincide with the time off from college books. Cars were not too plentiful at that time but Bob and I found a 1928-1932 model A Ford two door coupe. After some new piston rings and different tires, we were able to get around. We removed the back seat cushions to make room for our camping gear: stove, tent, bedroll and food. We pitched our tent beside the creek at the foot of the mountains. For a couple days we found signs of elk movement in the Trail Fork but no elk. On Dec. 31, we caught up with a small herd in the south fork of Bear Creek. The south fork of Bear Creek was our name for it, not to be confused with Trail Fork where we camped. It is not named on recent maps. We had our meat supply for the winter but it was still up the creek a small distance.

We slept in a bit on New Year's morning, had breakfast, dragged the elk into camp and started to break up camp. The smaller of the two elk we managed to squeeze and jerk past the front jump seat into the back seat area. It had been nearly full when we arrived but we managed to stack our gear on top of the elk. No more use of the rear view mirror! The larger cow elk fit just right on the front bumper which would be hard to do on our modern cars.

It was late afternoon before were ready to leave but only about sixty miles to our family home in Three Forks. The weather was nice there at the foot of the mountains. A little cool but a little sun coming through the broken clouds. We looked around to see if we had picked up everything, the car started right up
(continued on page 3)

Membership Update

There are still 21 memberships outstanding. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. 2010 memberships are now due, Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons. If your membership comes due before the next Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail to MVHA at P.O. Box 747, Ennis, MT. 59729. The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories.

No Memories to print this issue.

George B Rowe passed away on Nov. 27, 2009. He was born Jan. 5, 1916 in Pony and was associated with the Rowe Brothers Ranch at Red Bluff.

Snow drift Hospitality *Continued from pg 2.*
and off we went down the road, past the Alice Orr ranch. By the time we approached the Bear Creek School House there was an abrupt change in the weather. We were not new to the abrupt change nor a full blown blizzard. New snow was in the air and old snow was sweeping across the ground. The wind was fierce and periodic gusts would completely block out the road. Looking above the ground, toward the valley below, you could see for a mile or two. A beautiful site from a limited perspective. There was a small snowdrift forming at the corner across from the school and we turned north. We were pushed by the south wind but mindful of the fence posts sticking out of the snow on both sides of the road. Somewhere between the fence posts would be a good place to drive.

Still not mesmerized by the whirling snow, we knew we must turn left toward the valley at the next corner. The wind and snow would be going across the road instead of swirling down the road. With snow all around and daylight about gone, we turned left. There in front of us was a massive snow drift. Even before I could throttle up, our stop was abrupt. Reverse, hardly a wiggle. I stepped out of the Model A. It should have been out and down, with 19 inch wheels on the front and 21 inch wheels with chains on the back. My father, who died when I was fourteen, had taught me well. We had a shovel even as I still have today. Looking ahead, we could see that backing out was our best choice. Clean out behind one wheel, then the other. The first one was full again. Try to back up--no luck, we were high centered up front.



Bear Creek Elk and 1928-32 Ford Model A
Photo Three Forks MT by Robert E. Haigh

It was dark by now when here came a man from the log house across the road. With shoveling and a little push, we were able to back out. This man was Karl Warburton. He said, "you're not going to get through that drift tonight. Get your bedroll and come to the bunk house." He later invited us to share the leftovers from New Year's dinner. I remember having a drumstick.

Soon after eating we noticed car lights from the corner drift area. It was Alice Orr coming from town and was stalled in the drift. At this point I went with Gene Warburton, the oldest boy of Karl and Hazel, to the barn where we harnessed up a team of

horses. He pulled her car over the drift and she continued her snowy drive to her ranch. She called a little later saying that she had made it home.

Karl and Hazel Warburton had bought the Albert Werner Ranch in 1948 and moved there with their children. Later the house was bought by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks and moved to Nevada City where it still is located. (see The "Old Werner House" in the next article.

In the morning the storm was over and we were treated to breakfast. I wonder if we were predestined to encounter the drift and experience such hospitality at the Warburton Ranch. We never would have made it home that night. We found out that the State Highway Dept. had plowed many huge drifts on the way to Three Forks (Highway 287) It could have been one of those snowdrifts where we might have spent the night or even worse.

On our way home, as we passed the Cafe in Ennis, the game warden, Toughy Cole, who was having coffee, saw us go by with the elk on the front of the car. By the time he caught up with us we were about two miles north of town. It was easy to find the tag on the bumper elk. The one in the back of the car was a different story. I think he thought we were trying to hide it with all our gear. It was quite a sight, standing on the running board and leaning over the jump seat. He had what we then called a pot belly. As he came up for air, he said "If I hadn't started this, I'd give up." After we moved a few things out of the way, he found the tag.

I now live in Ennis and occasionally go past the Warburton Ranch (formerly the Albert Werner ranch). Although it has been sixty years, I will never forget those great people and their generosity. Karen Warburton Dringle and Gene Warburton, children of Karl and Hazel, live in Ennis at the present time. I knew the Dringles even before I moved to Ennis in 1972 and our children grew up together, but I had no thought that Karen's parents were the ones who had helped us so much that night.

Thanks to Karen Warburton Dringle, Karen Shores, Jane Rybus and Vi Haigh for their help in preparing this story.



Early photo of the Warburton (former Albert Werner) Ranch House.

The "Old Werner House" by MVHA member Karen Shores

Found on the back of a painting by Catherine Barr of this (the Albert Werner) house was a note from Winifred Jeffers which said the following:

Older Werner Home near Cameron (razed by Ray Carkeek) Two story part was built for storage by "Auntie" and "Uncle" Woodworth later made into a home when Ennis Lake formed and took most of Woodworth's acreage. When they built their lake home bought by Albert Werner.

The lake was formed around 1905. Albert, Mable and sons, Elwood and Erwin, lived in the house and were an integral part of the Bear Creek community. The boys attended the Bear Creek School House.

In 1948 the house was sold to Karl and Hazel Warburton. At this time Albert Werner said he thought that the house was about 75 years old. The Warburton family had seven children. Karen Warburton Dringle remembers that "it was very cold in there. The boys slept out in a bunk house. Both Karen Dringle and Karen Cheney Shores remembered a wonderful floor in the long one story part dining/living room because the floor slanted about a foot from one end to the other. It was such fun to slide down on an old rug. The upstairs was mostly for storage as the floor was unstable.

In 1957 Karl Warburton offered the place to his neighbors, but no one could afford to buy it. He then sold it to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Later neighbors Ray Carkeek and his father George Carkeek bough the crop land, house, barn and out buildings. This was beautiful and productive crop land because of the alluvial fan. The upper part remained as game range.

This wonderful old log house was later donated to Charlie Bovey and John Ellingsen and was moved to Nevada City. The house was not "razed"..just moved.

In place of this old log house, a bunkhouse was added onto extensively for the family of Anita and Hank Gates, ranch managers and so the corner continued to have a family home. The Gates children who grew up in this house were Mary Gates Oliver, David Gates and Marie Gates Reinoehl. In the 1980 this complete house was moved down on to the old Carkeek place, restored and became a summer home for Dick, Karen, Kevin and Eric Shores.



Current Werner House in Nevada City

From the Mail Box

Dear Wagon Tongue

Regarding Ennis Woodman Hall (old Economy Store)

Some Memories by Robert L. Foreman

When I as about 10 years old in 1939, I remember attending movies shown at the Woodman Hall. This was used as the community theater previous to the movie theater on main street near the old post office. The theater was operated by Bob Gohn. He operated theaters in different towns even though he was blind. My dad had told me that he lost his eye sight when cannon powder exploded in his face. In Virginia City on the 4th of July they would fire cannon balls across the ravine. Then after the occasion, the young men wold find the cannon balls that had not exploded, screw the cap out and pour the powder out.

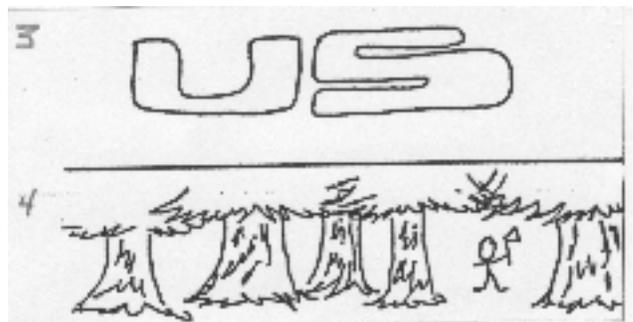
I also remember when the movie theater was built. My folks and I were watching the movie "Gone with the Wind" when the electricity went off. My dad left to repair the power line which had gone down with a severe wind. The rest of us sat in the dark theater for three hours before they got the power on.

I also remember the Woodman Hall being used for Box socials. Another time the Foremans, the Storys, the Huttons, the Thextons, the Nevilles the Stalcups and the Chamberlins all had a family get-together there.

Montana Trivia

Answers to October 2009 issue:

- 1. Horse Prairie
- 2. Twin Bridges



Researcher needs information

Vicky MacLean is researching the old Forest Service ranger stations on the Beaverhead and Deer Lodge National Forests. She is looking for old photographs of these stations or the rangers that worked there. If you perhaps had a relative that worked for the forest service or lived near any of these ranger stations and happen to have a photo of it that you would be willing to have scanned, Vicky would be appreciative. She is also looking for information on the old Vigilante range experiment station on the Ruby River south of Sheridan. Contact Vicky MacLean, 2065 Colorado Gulch, Helena, MT 59601 email agillabs@mcn.net

GIVE THE GIFT OF HERITAGE

The Madison Valley History Association

WALK OF NAMES



Preserve your family's legacy on the boardwalk to the new Madison Valley History Association Building

- Gift a walkway board in the name of a loved one, your family, your ranch or business
- Add your family brand for no additional charge
- Support Your Museum
- Hand routed six foot composite board

New Museum opening this spring, come visit us!

My Walk of Names board should say:

Approximately 24 letters max

- I have a Brand and/or Branding Iron to be used. Brands will be applied at our Branding Party in 2010.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Send your tax deductible check for \$50 and this order to:

Madison Valley History Association PO Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729-0474
--

For more information call (406) 682-7415 or email othompson@wispwest.net

The Roundup A True Story--year 1939

by Charles G. Crump MVHA member

I really didn't sleep much as the plans for the next day kept bouncing around in my mind. The ground was hard and uneven beneath the old sleeping bag and it was cold, damned cold when I crawled in the night before. Sleeping or trying to sleep, with most of your clothes on doesn't add up to a restful night.

As the first glimmer of light pushed over the jagged peaks on the horizon east of the ranch, I knew it was going to be a day I'd remember forever.

The boots were dry and felt warm as I fished them out of the lower fold of the sleeping bag and in a fast physical surge I rolled out, pulled on the boots and grabbed the well worn Stetson I called mine.

Shivering in the early May chill, I could see lights in the cookhouse close by and smoke curling from the standpipe on the roof. Mixed with the picture was the smell of dry pine burning and the tang of sliced slab bacon.

Looking expectantly for the three sleeping forms of my friends, I was dismayed to find their bags rolled and thrown hastily near the cookhouse door. Three great friends!! They didn't even nudge me with a boot toe as they went by

The sounds of horses churning around in the pole corral just over the hill made me realize those characters I called "buddies" were already saddling up.

Hurriedly I rolled my bag, dumped it with the others and jogged, as well as high heeled boots let you, to the corral. Jenkins and Ted were leading their horses through the gate as I arrived. George's loop was settling over the pinto mare's head as I quietly moved, with my rope, into the milling bunch of Sun Ranch horses. All this without a word spoken. No "good morning" or useless talk to disrupt the tricky job of swinging a loop over one selected horse head from among fifty or more spooky and reluctant horses.

The plans had been casually laid over coffee cups the previous night and each of us had picked four horses we like best to start the eventful day. It would take the best and most reliable mounts to round up almost four hundred domestic buffalo that had wintered unmolested on the windswept table lands of Montana's Madison Valley Sun Ranch. This, in 1939, was one of the largest privately owned herds of American bison in the United States.

Hot oatmeal, fried eggs and bacon washed down with steaming black coffee capped the morning ritual for four cow-wise, but not buffalo-wise hard working cowboys. The first rays of Montana's "big sky" sun brought life to horses and men alike and the cold chill faded as we mounted cold saddles and headed for the draw north of the cookhouse.

Moving into the upper pastureland we were looked over carefully by early rising pocket gophers. Some atop their mounded earth homes and others peeking, big eyed, around rocks and sage brush. I wondered what these furry creatures thought as the frost covered buffalo grass splint-ered like broken glass, projected in all directions by the legs of the four horses.

The first picture of that herd of four hundred, as we crested the tableland, was to me nothing more than a blob

of brown in the distance. It was like a single moving animal, slowly, without feeling of direction. In a way it didn't look any different than the usual cow herd. It wasn't until we had moved within three hundred yards that the blob fragment- ed into individual shaggy, dark brown buffalo. The large bulls were bigger than our horses and had heads which seemed as big as their bodies. Some already shedding, with tangled lighter colored patches of hair hanging like tattered shag rugs thrown out to broom. Numerous leggy calves, some just weeks old, were working on a warm break- fast. As we approached, there was an air of suspicion, but not fear, as the animals were seeing their first human since midwint-er feeding. As much as they looked and acted like a cow herd, there was one special difference. Buffalo just don't like humans, especially those on foot. Julius Butler, Sun Ranch owner, had said to us the night before "Now just be sure you keep them moving until they tire. Then they'll go into the big corral for water and hay. Remember one thing. As long as you are on horseback they won't bother you. Just don't get afoot because those old buffalo just seem to have a real hate for two-legged creatures. Especially ones that smell as bad as you birds do!"

On the word from Jenkins, the four of us spurred our horses in typical cow chasing fashion, hollering as loud as possible to get the herd fully on its feet and moving.

It wasn't until the sea of huge animals got under full run- ning power that I sensed the thrill that every Indian hunter must have experienced. There wasn't any dust as I'd always seen in movies, but everything else was there only this time it was for real.

The most amazing performance was embodied in the calves, probably weighing several hundred pounds compared to the half-ton weight or more of the mother, racing along side, as agile as an adult. It was all my horse could do to hold his own and it was top speed all the way.

Ted and George fell behind as planned and swapped horses. In the meantime, Jenkins and I kept the herd run- ning, as much as possible towards the draw where the big corral stood. This routine kept up, swapping horses, gulp- ing sandwiches and thermos tea, until two o'clock. The pace was telling on the winter weary animals. They probably hadn't traveled faster than a walk since last September! It seemed a cruel way to accomplish a job but nobody had yet invented some way to communicate with the buffalo and have them accept invitations to corrals!

At last the leading big bulls, knowing full well the water was there, veered down the draw, the rest of the herd following, into the 12 foot high long corral. Their excitement was over and they'd now settle, exhausted, but willing to nibble the hay Julius had provided. The following days would be spent in branding, vaccinating, castrating and selecting choice two year old steers for butchering.

The sleeping bag that night held no broken dreams, only ones of satisfaction with a day ended which few other men in the world would experience.

Story provided by Deb Townshend who says that Charlie is now in his 90's but remembers his cowboy days in Montana.

For Your Reading Pleasure

A Bride on the Bozeman Trail The Letters and Diary of Ellen Gordon Fletcher 1866. Edited by Francis D. Haines, Jr. The MVHA has a copy to check out to members. Also available at Sheridan and Three Forks Libraries.

Looking Ahead

February 18, 2010 4:00pm Madison Valley Bank (tentative) Steve Morehead co-author of the Beaver-head County history book to help us get started on the Madison Valley Book.

March 17, 2010 Second Annual William Ennis birthday party and Irish Stew Feed. Location TBA. Mark your calendar and figure out a way you can help the MVHA make this a yearly event in the Ennis and the Madison Valley.

April 15 4:00 pm Madison Valley Bank Dr. Jeff Safford will return and share more stories about Sterling.

Member News

Smitty Overstreet (MVHA founder and Board Member) is now living in Big Timber and would love to hear from you. Her address is: Pioneer Medical Center, 301 West 7th Ave. #8, Big Timber, MT 59011 phone 406-932-6229.

Eula Thompson Wing (Mother of Dave Wing) celebrated her 102nd birthday on Nov. 23, 2009.
Hal Pasley, MVHA member, celebrated his 99th birthday on Nov. 12, 2009.

Lucy Hoag Pasley, MVHA member, celebrated her 91st birthday on Dec. 10, 2009.

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, MT 59729

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson
Vice President: Jimmy Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Duane Thexton
Director: Larry Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Director: John White

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00am First Madison Valley Bank conference room

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be April 2010.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

June Haigh *Snowdrift Hospitality-More on the winter of '48-49.*

Karen Shores *The "Old Werner House" from Virginia City Nugget, Vol 14, Issue 2 Summer 2009*

Charles Crump *The Roundup A true Story-year 1939*

Kevin Brenneke *Montana Trivia*

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 8 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

April 2010

From the Wagon Seat: I saw my first blue bird yesterday, so I guess Spring has really come to the Madison Valley. And with Spring comes a whole new bunch of activities with the MVHA. Our new museum building has been completely repainted on the inside thanks to help of several of our members. The carpet has been shampooed, the plumbing is working, and most of the electrical work has been done. We just need to install some carpet in the hallway and then we can start moving our artifacts into the building. Our next major project is to install the sidewalks and the prepare the parking areas. It appears we will make our opening date on Memorial Day at the end of May.

We now have 143 boards purchased by families and businesses for the Walk of Names. So if you want your family name or ancestors' names included, look for the order blank in your January issue of the *Wagon Tongue*, and place your order today. Or download the order blank from the website posted above. Remember, your contribution is tax deductible.

Our monthly programs have been quite exciting. In January, Jacqui Marotta give us the informative program *The Women of the Bozeman Trail*. In February, Stephen Morehouse instructed us on how he and the Beaverhead County Museum put together the picture history book, *Images of America Beaverhead County*. Gary Forney, together with assistance from the MVHA, is preparing a similar book for Madison Valley. If you have any early pictures of Madison Valley you would like to share, contact Gary Forney (406.682.4096) or me (othompson@wispwest.net) with details on how to share these photos with us.

The mayor of Ennis, John Clark, signed a proclamation declaring March 17 William Ennis Day as a way of recognizing Ennis' founding father. Several of the businesses in Ennis got into the spirit by having treats and specials in their stores on this day. And the MVHA concluded the celebration with an Irish Stew dinner complete with Irish soda bread, Blarney stones, and birthday cake. Over 160 people attended this dinner. Our thanks go out to Ann White who chaired this event and to the Cameron Longhorn 4H club (and their mothers) who prepared the Irish stew.

Our programs for the next months are taking shape. In April we have scheduled a return visit by Dr. Jeff Safford from the MSU history department to talk about Madison County Civil War Veterans 1864-68 with the Hot Spring Mining District as a Case Study. In May, we are planning a potluck dinner when we elect our new board members for the next year. We are planning several field trips for the summer months, so keep watch for announcements of these tours.

An Ennis All School Reunion is scheduled for August 6-8. If you attended the Ennis schools, plan on attending. Enclosed in this issue of the *Wagon Tongue* is a registration form for the reunion. To complement this event, on Friday afternoon (August 6), the MVHA is having an open house at the new museum and a branding party for the Walk of Names boards. For a nominal charge, MVHA will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs at this site, so plan on meeting your friends and neighbors here and see what our new museum looks like. At the Saturday night banquet, the winning raffle ticket for the quilt designed by the local quilters group as a fund raiser for MVHA will be drawn. Contact Shirley Love, *Wagon Tongue* editor for raffle tickets you can buy (or sell) to help fund our museum endeavors.

As always, your support for our efforts is greatly appreciated.
Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

History Tidbit: William Ennis, founder of Ennis, was extensively engaged in stock raising. At the time of his death, he owned over 2,000 acres. He originated and used the Rising Sun brand which is now owned by the Sun Ranch and the MVHA assumes it went with the recent sale.



Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list for you.

Eagleton Family (F)

CMR 480 Box 1608
ATO, AE 09128-1608

Pasley, J. R. & Darlene (F)

P.O. Box 486 (682-4476)
Ennis, MT. 59729

Scudder, Don & Martha (F)

P.O. Box 1330
Ennis, MT 59729

Silve, Maryann (I)

300 Stone Lane
Twin Bridges, MT 59754

Thompson, Neil (I)

6134 W. 32nd Place (317-291-5256)
Indianapolis, IN 46224

family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories.

Doris Lynn (Angle) Benschoter, age 87, passed away on Sat, Jan 16, 2010 in Michigan. She was born Jan.7 1923 in Sheridan, MT to Oscar and Ethel Angle. She is survived by MVHA members.. brother Don Angle and sister Emily Angle Watson. Also a brother, Keith. Doris donated a nice sum of money to recreate the Angle blacksmith shop and work will begin on this project spring of 2010.

Doris' letters home were printed in the Wagon Tongue Vol 6, Iss. 3, July 2008 pages 4 & 5, Vol 6, Iss 4 Oct 2008 page 3 and Vol 7 Iss 1, Jan 2009 page . Reread her stories in your back issues of the Wagon Tongue or get the back issues of the Wagon Tongue on the website www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org.

Ennis resident, **Leo Black**, age 88 passed away Feb. 20, 2010. Leo retired to Ennis in 1972 and in 1980 he and his wife, Sally, purchased the Gambles Hardware Store which eventually became the Ennis TrueValue currently run by his son, Wayne.

Ennis resident, **Glenn Restvedt**, passed away on Feb. 25, 2010 just shy of his 81 birthday. Glen grew up in the family grocery business. In 1980 Glenn and son, Glenn Albert, took over the meat department of Clark's Grocery in Ennis which later became McCuaig's and subsequently KC's Market. Glenn's dream was to build a sausage kitchen so in 1990 he and Al built Restvedt's Meats and Glenn remained active at the market until 2009. Son, Al, continues to run Restvedt's Meats.

Memories and stories are welcomed by the Wagon Tongue about Leo and Glenn.

MVHA member and longtime Ennis resident, **Waller Shriver "Bud" Angle** passed away on March 1, 2010 at the age of 84. His parents were Waller Staples and Hattie K. Angle, pioneers to the Madison Valley.

Bud's father, Waller Staples Angle was born in Wirtz, Virginia. Waller and his older brother, Burks, came West to visit a sister, Cordelia, who had already come West and married Edgar Michner and was living at McAllister. The two brothers thought that they could get work if they stayed and they did. Waller was 16 years old when he came in 1901 and he found that working on these ranches out here was pretty hard work for a young boy but he stayed with out. He and Burks first worked at the Hlgbee and Hawkins sawmill in McAllister. Later Waller went to work for Mr. Briggs and for Mr. Bert Maynard. Waller continued on here working on ranches for Mr. Gordon, Mr. Remington and the Bufords on the Valley Garden Ranch. This was a large ranch and Waller did all the things that were needed to be done. He broke horses to ride, drive and work, tended sheep camp, helped with haying and other farm chores. He worked for Andrew Switzer for awhile and drove stage from Virginia City to Sappington for the Buford Mercantile Company. In 1908, Waller went to work for Otto Coss who operated a blacksmith shop in Ennis.

Membership Update

There are 16 memberships outstanding for Jan., Feb. & Mar. 2010. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. 2010 memberships are now due, Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons. If your membership comes due before the next Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail to MVHA at P.O. Box 747, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's

Memories of Bud Angle continued from page 2

Waller liked ranch work, but since his father, Silas, was a blacksmith in Virginia, he thought he would like to try and become a good blacksmith.

On Dec. 30, 1908, he married Hattie Katharine Shriver, daughter of pioneer family, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Pierce Shriver, owners of Shriver Hot Springs, just a miles or so north of Ennis. Franklin Shriver's half sister was Katherine who married William Ennis who founded the town of Ennis.

Two years later, in 1910, he bought the blacksmith shop from Otto Coss. Four children were born to Waller and Hattie..Roberta, Claude , Winifred and the youngest, Waller Shriver "Bud" born May 29, 1925.

Bud grew up in Ennis and spent several years in the Navy. After his return home, he went to work in his father's hardware store, Angle Hardware. He worked with his father, Waller, Uncle Oscar, brother Claude and sister, Winifred.

From Madison Valley Trail and Trials, Madison County Waller Staples Angle pg. 7-8 by Hattie K. Angle and Franklin Pierce Shriver pg. 169 by Hattie K. Angle and Roberta Angle Love.

Memories of Bud would not be complete without including the beginnings of the very first hospital in the Madison Valley.

The Madison Valley Hospital opened with great urgency in late August of 1950. The roof was on, windows were in, and yes, there was finally water coming from the faucet. A couple of flush toilets worked. There were no beds yet. Bud Angle, a young man in his early twenties, was sitting on his idling brand new motorcycle in front of his Pop Angle's Hardware store. His older sister, Win, wanted to try it out and the two of them were mounted in tandem with Win at the controls. She accidentally twisted the handle to full-trottle. The motorcycle shot across Main Street only to crash head on into the Co-op. Bud smashed his head against the concrete wall. Win missed the wall and crashed through the front plate-glass window. Bud lay on the sidewalk in a coma and Win, crumpled inside, was badly lacerated. All able bodied and available citizens pitched in. The hospital at that instant was declared open, ready or not!! The Angle siblings were transported to the new facility.

Ladies started organizing. Food had to be prepared three times a day. Olive was drafted to nurse and cook for three days without relief. Beds were commandeered from the Sportsman's Lodge across the street from the hospital. Someone donated a very large rubber plant. As I looked at the leaves, I wondered whether they might be used as homeostatic compress or would they, during the night, burst into a meat-eating mutation. We placed Win in the southwest room. We put Bud in a single bed room meant for terminal patients. With all this going on, a tourist stood impatiently in the hall amidst the pandemonium, asking Olive if he could please bring his wife in, because she was so sick. Olive queried, "Is she having a baby?" He said, "No, I think she has food poisoning."

Olive welcomed, "Sure bring her in. Our hospital isn't open yet. We'll put her on an army cot until we can get a proper bed." Olive put the lady on an army cot in the south

east room. Volunteers held her intravenous bottle until a hat rack could be borrowed. *From Doc by R.E. Losee pg. 36 and 37. Editor's note: A new hospital and clinic was built in 2008-09 and this "Not open yet "hospital was then demolished .*

William Ennis Day Birthday Celebration

William Ennis, the founder of Ennis, was born in County Down, Ireland on March 17, . In honor of his birthday the MVHA had the second annual William Ennis Day Birthday Celebration on March 17. The town of Ennis has more to celebrate on March 17 than just St. Patrick's Day!! An Irish Stew dinner was held at the Fire Hall with the Cameron Longhorn 4-H Club cooking the stew. Donations for the meal included coleslaw from Bynee's, napkin wrappers for Yesterdays, water pitchers and packets of honey and butter from the Ennis Cafe, and potatoes for the stew from Dennis & Joy Guy. Local businesses were invited to join in the fun with First Madison Valley Bank serving cookies and playing Irish music, and advertised on their big sign,Nearly New had cookies and a sign on the door, Cori Koenig opened the Hole in the Wall Art Gallery special for the day, Ennis Pharmacy had a sign in the window and Yesterdays had a William Ennis special on their menu, Otter Banks had signs on their windows, the Blue Heron served free Irish Coffee and had a William Ennis Day Sale and the West of the Madison had a drawing for a gift certificate and customers received discounts for purchases. Greg Lemon of the Madisonian had a William Ennis History on the front page of the March 11 issue. Madison Foods put up a notice.and Lions Club and Woman's Club helped out. Please let the MVHA know of other merchants or individuals that celebrated the day and we missed out on noting them. Please support these merchants that supported us and thank them when you visit their store.

The MVHA also sponsored a writing contest at the Junior High School and Dusty Schrock, Jr. High Teacher was asked to spearhead this contest. She chose 7th graders to participate in this contest and we received 16 entries. Jane Rybus, Zoe Todd , Shirley Love and Larry Love read the entries and chose two entries, one a poem and one an essay to receive the first place awards.

Both winners received a free dinner for their family, got a copy of Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray and read their entry at the Irish Stew Dinner.

Taylre Sitz submitted this poem:

Where Ennis Came From

Ennis came from William and Katherine
And gorging river bends.

Determined, loving children following in their parents'
footsteps.

Improving blacksmith shops to hardware stores
and keeping up a post office.

Ennis came from good soil and grass
Snowstorms, blizzards, and droughts

Ennis came from freedom, liberty, respect and a dream
Ennis came from freedom, liberty, respect and gratitude.

Ennis is where I come from.

The Story of William Ennis

by Sam Welch

Around 1842 when William Ennis was 14 years old, he set out for America, After working on the railroads, he eventually started a freight business and made a lot of money transporting supplies to the Montana. On one of these trips he needed food for his animals. He was then directed to the Madison Valley which was not too far from Virginia City to sell. He later laid claim to the land and built a cabin where his family moved up with him.

From there he continued his freighting business, and started others as well. He started a general store and a post office, in which he was the post master. This role continued for two more generations, covering 84 years. In 1891 the Ennis family began a telegraph service, linking Ennis with the outside world. William's daughter, Jennie, taught herself Morse code and was licensed as a telegrapher.

On June 18th, 1898, while William was in Virginia City, he was shot while standing outside of the Madison House, a hotel where he was staying. William was approached and shot in the chest by Martin Peel, who then walked up to the Sheriff's Office and confessed. William was taken to his hotel room and nursed by two local doctors. The shooting supposedly occurred from an old grudge between the two men.

William died on July 4, 1898, on Independence Day. There were a number of newspaper articles reporting his death and funeral. Most said that he lived for 14 days after the shooting and didn't eat within that period of time.

William's murderer, Martin Peel, was charged with murder in the first degree. He pleaded not guilty. On December 29th, 1898, he was found guilty with murder of the first degree. On March 18th, 1899, he was sentenced to hang. (MVHA note with Sam Welch's permission: Martin Peel appealed the hanging sentence, was retried and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Montana State Penitentiary in Deer Lodge. He died there Dec. 31, 1901. He is buried in the cemetery in Virginia City.)

If William Ennis was never directed to the Madison Valley, life wouldn't be exactly the same as it is now. For example, we may not have been the Ennis Mustangs without him. Someone may have ended up settling here if William didn't, but it would be exactly the same. I do not know what would have been different, so I do not know what I would have missed.

Museum to Open

The very first permanent museum will open in the Madison Valley over Memorial Day weekend May 29 to 31,2010. Then it will open for the season on

June 15. Hours will be 10:00am to 4:00pm. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 to 4:00pm on Sundays.

The old Madison Valley Clinic building was donated to the MVHA by the Hospital Foundation and moved to 22 acres of donated land 4 miles west of Ennis on the highway to Virginia City. Ground was broken on March 16, 2009 and the building moved in May 2009. New roof and siding were installed summer of 2009 and MVHA volunteers have worked hard over this past year getting the building ready and moving of the items from the temporary museum and from storage will begin soon.

If you have artifacts, books, letters,pictures, etc. that you would like to donate to the museum, now is the time to get those items to us.

Maybe you have an idea for a display of some kind...family, town, business, club, etc..now is the time to begin working on that as well.

MVHA has gone from very little space to a huge amount of space so your help will be needed in making the museum dream come true. Volunteers will also be needed to keep the museum open so say yes when called. When all you out of town members come to town, please call and volunteer for a half day or even whole day. The locals cannot do this museum all alone!! Check out the website to see pictures of the building and the progress.

Historical Cookbook Project

The historical cookbook project is alive and well. We are looking for food recipes, drink recipes, and home remedies (such as those for health and beauty, cleaning solutions, etc.) Please send your old family recipe from mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, auntie, uncle, cousin, or yourself. With your recipe, include a photo and a written story about this person whose recipe it is. Remember, this is an historical cookbook, so we want a little bit of history about the person whose recipe it is. Send recipes and pictures to Liz Applegate at 3 Hilltop Road, Ennis, MT 59729 e-mail liz.billapplegate @gmail.com or phone 682-3288 Check out the history website to see an example.

++++
Montana Trivia Answers to Jan 2010 issue:
3. Broadus 4. Big Timber



The Sun Ranch

The Sun Ranch south of Ennis has a very long history in the Madison Valley. It has again been sold and not many details of the current sale are available. But this seems like an appropriate time to look at the early history of this ranch.

Charles "Chuck" Aaberg started to work for the Butler Ranches in South Dakota. Their Seven Eleven Ranch was located at Hot Springs. Chuck's Uncle was the manager of this ranch when Chuck graduated from high school in 1932.

Young Chuck was interested in fine horses. The Seven Eleven both in South Dakota and Montana's Gallatin Canyon were owned by Paul Butler and were used primarily for the breeding and training of fine polo ponies.

Chuck Aaberg was at the Butler Headquarters in Oakbrook, Illinois when Paul Butler asked him to take over the management of the Sun Ranch in the Madison Valley for about 3 weeks. He arrived there in May of 1941 and managed the ranch until he retired.

The Sun Ranch owned 8000 acres in 1941 when Chuck became manager. In 1943 the corporation bought the Hippe Ranch and in 1946 it purchased the Joe Dauterman Ranch. Most of the land in the Fred Kirby Ranch was acquired and the Pearson Ranch was leased for ten years before it was purchased in 1971. The Lewis Clark's Indian Creek Ranch was bought in 1951 and the Wellman ranch about 1969. They acquired the Alfred Storey Ranch and then sold it again. In 1974 they had about 23,000 deeded acres and 7000 leased acres.

The Sun Ranch ran about 1500 cows and about 25 thoroughbred horses. While Chuck Aaberg managed the ranch he kept around a hundred horses which were trained as polo ponies. In 1974 it became more difficult to find competent ranch workers who are capable of training polo ponies and the Butlers were older and not so interested in fine horses.

The buffalo which Marshall Cunningham acquired in 1928 were sold in 1941 when Aaberg became manager. The animals had become too hard to handle. In 1942 he bought two cows and a bull to start a new herd. Then Porter Nelson, who owned a garage in Ennis, sold his small herd to a butcher, and Chuck bought three calves and a bull. The ranch had twenty animals when they started to be hard to handle again and were sold in 1954. The real reason for breaking up this herd was that too many people wanted to be taken in to see the buffalo and the ranch did not have the staff to handle this courtesy.

Until 1958 the Sun Ranch did not have a telephone and the power line for electricity was put in in 1954. Before 1958 messages for the ranch were

delivered by the staff at McAtee's Store in Cameron. The telephone line was built by the Upper Madison Telephone Company which bought the Forest service. This organization was made up of ranchers headed by Chuck. He went to Dillon when the forest line, which was about 40 miles long, was to be auctioned. He bid it in for \$5.00. Later the telephone company bought the line and started maintaining it. When the Sun Ranch added new buildings, the telephone lines were attached to the same poles as the electric wires.

When Chuck came to the ranch he bought a small power plant hoping to be able to get effective electric light. The water supply came from an excellent spring which made it easy to install, which worked from gravity flow. Heat was always comfortable because the buildings were warmed by the barrel stoves and kitchen ranges which also heated the water. When Chuck and Otto Kirby began to meet with Walter Sagunsky in 1954 to try to arrange to get electricity through the REA, the Montana Power Company agreed to put in power lines in the upper Madison.

The Sun Ranch had been able to cooperate with their neighbors even though they are owned by a corporation. When Paul and Julius Butler were young, the ranch was their cherished possession and they encouraged their employees to be active in the community. In 1974 the corporation made ranching decisions without seeing the country. On one occasion, the ranch was advertised for sale because the accountants found that the investment did not fit into the pattern of their other holdings.

Chuck likes to remember examples of community cooperation such as the building of the telephone and power lines and Mrs. Walter McAtee's handling of rationing during World War II. She collected as many ration books as she was able to get from her customers and used them to stock the shelves. Her system worked so well that Chuck felt that he was never inconvenienced by rationing.

Chuck's wife, Fanny, remembers her life as a hostess at the Sun Ranch. The ranch always had a cook house where the employees were fed, but guests at the ranch came to the manager's home. Although the guests were always invited, the latch string was always out. After the Butler's built their mansion in 1961, their staff became responsible for much of the ranch hospitality.

Compiled by Minnie Paugh from an interview with Chuck Aaberg, May 1974 and printed in the Progressive Years, Madison County, MT Vol II.

History Tidbit; The first bloodshed in the Civil War occurred on April 19, 1861. Abraham Lincoln issued his state of insurrection proclamation and call for militia on April 15, 1861. That all happened 149 years ago this month.

For Your Reading Pleasure

Mechanics of Optimism by Dr. Jeffery J. Safford. Dr. Jeff spoke this month at the monthly MVHA meeting and also last November. Both talks were about the things he had to leave out of this book to satisfy his publisher. This book has been listed before in this column but it is time again to look it up if you have missed it.

Doc by R.E. Losee You will want to read or reread this wonderful book after reading the excerpt in Memories. Also listed before but a great reread!!

Looking Ahead

May 20, 2010 Annual meeting with a potluck dinner and election of new board members and approval of the budget. Program will be MHS Reference librarian Zoe Ann Stoltz presenting *Toys, More Than Just Fun* a social history of toys and children's play. Rick Arnold, MVHA member will display some of his antique toys.

May 29, 30, 31, 2010 First week end of the opening of the new MVHA Museum. Plan to volunteer to work a 3 hour shift that weekend.

June 15, 2010 Museum opening for the season Tuesday through Saturday 10:00am to 4:00 pm Sundays 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Museum will be open until mid September or early October depending on number of visitors.

Wagon Tongue by email If you would like to receive your copy of the Wagon Tongue at your e mail address please send an e mail to Shirley Love, Editor at: whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson
Vice President: Jimmy Carlson
Treasurer: Neil Kent
Secretary: Duane Thexton
Director: Larry Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet
Director: John White

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch the *Madisonian* for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday.) Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 10:00am in MVHA Museum Conference Room.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2010.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

Madison Valley Trails and Trials Madison County, MT Vol 1
Waller Staples Angle pg. 7-8 by Hattie Angle and *Franklin Pierce Shriver* pg. 168 by Hattie Angle and Roberta Angle Love

R. E. Losee Doc pg. 36-37

Taylre Sitz *Where Ennis Came From*
Sam Welch *The Story of William Ennis*

The Progressive Years, Madison County, MT Vol II *The Sun Ranch* compiled by Minnie Paugh from an interview with *Chuck Aaberg, May 1974*

Kevin Brenneke Montana Trivia

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, MT 59729

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

Many of the MVHA members are also Alumni of Ennis High School and the All School Reunion is very supportive of the MVHA with promotion of the quilt raffle during registration and branding party and open house at the museum on Friday evening and the drawing for the quilt during the banquet on Saturday evening. Thus the Wagon Tongue is helping advertize the reunion with this insert in the April issue.

April 2010

Dear Ennis Alumnus:

Hello from your 2010 All Class Ennis Reunion Committee. This is our second attempt to reach everyone. We encourage you to share this information with everyone appropriate in having gone to school in Ennis. It has been most challenging and not always successful in finding addresses. If you received the prior mailing, some of this information will be repetitive.

The 2010 reunion is scheduled from Friday, August 6 through Sunday August 8, 2010. Registration will take place in the Ennis High School foyer on Friday from 3:00 – 7:00 and Saturday from 1:00 – 6:00.

The primary purpose of this letter is to inform you: 1) that the reunion is scheduled, 2) of reunion events with related costs throughout the weekend, and 3) have you pre-register by *regular mail!!*

Pre-registration by June 15, 2010 is very important. The committee is challenged with determining numbers of attendees to proceed with the planning to make this 2010 reunion memorable. The enclosed registration form addresses the costs related to registration and meals.

A large “hospitality tent,” with a dance floor, tables and chairs, will be set up at the Lion’s Club Park on the east end of main street on Friday. Our own very talented Steve Hulse (’62) will be on the keyboard Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 or so, along with some “Sirius” radio for entertainment throughout the weekend.

The Ennis Community will host the following events throughout the reunion weekend:

- Madison Valley History Association open house and dedication on Friday
- Live music and dancing at the local taverns
- Farmers Market on Saturday morning
- Piecemaker’s Quilt Show on Saturday

Please make your plans to attend the reunion and submit your pre-registration plans right away. Complete the enclosed registration form and return it to

ENNIS REUNION, P.O. BOX 1263, ENNIS, MT 59729

Check out “www.ennisschools.org” click on “reunion” for updated information

Call 406-843-5458/406-640-1076 for information or to offer information to others

E-mail: Linda Secora Roberts: cbalmoral@hotmail.com

Joy Daems: joydaems@aol.com

REGISTRATION FORM
2010 ENNIS ALL SCHOOL REUNION
AUGUST 6, 7 AND 8

Name _____ When attended Ennis Schools _____

For name tags, please list others from your household (associated with single registration

fee) to attend banquet: _____

Address

Phone: _____ E-mail address _____

Activity costs :

Registration, \$10 per household		<u>\$ 10</u>
Saturday night banquet 6:30 p.m., Ennis High Gym		
\$20 per person	_____ x \$20	\$ _____
Sunday Brunch, \$8 per person	_____ x \$8	\$ _____
(Brunch starting at 8:00 a.m.)		
	Total	\$ _____

Mail this form and payment to: Ennis Reunion, P.O. Box 1263, Ennis, MT 59729

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 8 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

July 2010

From the Wagon Seat: After a very wet June here in the Madison Valley, it appears summer has finally arrived. The hills are really green and most of the snow has left the mountain tops. A lot has been happening with the MVHA since the last newsletter. First of all, we elected new board members at the May meeting. The new board members are Don Black of Great Falls and Jeffers, Kevin Brenneke of Jeffers, and yours truly, Otis Thompson of Ennis. The board elected its "new" officers at its June meeting. I, Otis Thompson, was reelected as president, John White was elected vice president, Duane Thexton was reelected secretary, and Neil Kent was reelected treasurer.

Also at our May meeting, Ten-Year Certificates were awarded to Bud Angle (posthumously), Bev Claassen, Pat and Dave Hale, Neil Kent, and Larry and Shirley Love. Also, it was my honor as President of MVHA to present Harold White and Larry Love with Certificates of Achievement and a small gift for the many hours they have spent this past year in getting our new museum site up and running. Without Harold's expertise in plumbing, electrical work, carpentry, locks and the use of his tools, we could never have made the May opening. Larry, as the museum project director put in many hours behind the scenes getting work crews together and making things happen. Larry has also accepted the task as project chairman for the Otto Coss-Oscar Angle Forge building.

The Walk of Names project has really been a success story for the MVHA. We really appreciate the support we have had in this project from all of you out there. If you have not had the opportunity to purchase a board for yourself or a loved one, it is not too late to do so. This will be an ongoing project for some time. We have now sold over 200 boards and collected over \$10,000 in this project. These funds have enabled us to get the Walk of Names in place. We are about 3/4 of the way done with the walks leading to the museum. Also, with these funds and a generous donation from the Madison Valley Woman's Club and a grant from the Horizons Program for the Madison Valley, we are ready to start phase one on the Forge building. As I write this column, work has begun on preparing the site for the foundation of this building.

Our monthly programs in May and June have been very successful. Zoe Ann Stolz of the Montana Historical Society gave a very entertaining presentation on toys from the 1800s to the present day. MVHA member Rick Arnold added to the presentation by bringing many of the toys he has collected over the years. This program concluded with our annual potluck dinner enjoyed by all. At the June meeting, Joe Smithson, a local amateur historian, gave a presentation on the ancient Indian civilizations here in the Madison Valley. He had a slide show presentation that showed the evidence of these ancient people. On July 15, we will have our first summer field trip. This trip will take us to the Varney area, where MVHA members who grew up in that area will be our tour guides. In August, we are tentatively planning a field trip to take a tour of the talc mine.

Again this year your MVHA carried on the tradition of having a float in the annual Ennis 4th of July parade. This year our theme was "Preserving History Forever" in which several members, dressed in vintage clothing, rode on the trailer with an old horse drawn mower. The trailer was pulled by Larry Love's restored Cub International Tractor.

With this article I wish to express my condolences to the Overstreet family on the passing of our beloved friend and mentor "Smitty Overstreet." She will certainly be missed along with her knowledge of the valley and the passion she had for the MVHA.

This summer, if any of you have time, we could certainly use your help in maintaining the summer hours of the museum. The success of our museum depends on the volunteers who unselfishly give of their time. Remember, it takes all the members of the wagon train to "keep the wagons rolling."

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the April issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list for you.

Gecho, John & Sharron (F)

P.O. Box 253 (682-4682)
Cameron, MT 59720

Morton, Marian E. (I)

17502 102nd Ave. NE
Bothell, WA 98011-6704

Roberts, Linda (Secora) & Chris (F)

P.O. Box 124 (843-5458)
Virginia City, MT 59755

Wasick, Phyllis (I)

P.O. Box 1337 (682-7768)
Ennis, MT 59729

Membership Update 2010 memberships are now due, There are memberships still outstanding for Jan., Feb., Mar. and April. May, June, July, Aug., Sept. are now due at the this time for this Wagon Tongue publication. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons. If your membership comes due before the next October Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So

help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

Passing away since the last issue of the Wagon Tongue that has been brought to my attention are:

Mar. 31, 2010 **Curt Gibbs** age 71 at his home in Ennis. He was born on Sept. 26, 1938 at Virginia City to Benjamin and Eliza (McGee) Gibbs. He was raised in McAllister. (April 8, '10 *Madisonian*)

April 2, 2010 **Daniel Frank Armstrong** age 85 in Spokane, WA. He was born January 27, 1925 in Norris to Frank and Zora Armstrong. His father, Frank, was born in Oakly, Kansas. He came to Montana in the spring of 1913 with friends who were moving to farmland west of Three Forks, Montana. That same year, in June, he rode with a companion from Three Forks to the Madison Valley. It was a rainy day, you know the way it rains in June, the rain drizzling down, the smell of the wet earth, the richness of things growing, perhaps scudding clouds breaking up in the north. It was something like that when Frank rode over the Norris Hill, and he loved it. It became his home.

His first years in the Madison, he spent working as a freighter hauling beer from Virginia City to Ennis, as a ranch hand, working for Jimmy Shewmaker when he owned the ranch which serves now as the home ranch for Goggins Herefords, and as a car sales man.

On August 1, 1917 he married Zora McKee of Jeffers. Zora's father William Edward McKee (Dan's grandfather) was born in Illinois. He married Ida Woodworth and they first came to Montana in 1896. bringing six children, one of them Zora and five more were born in Montana. Their first home in the Madison Valley was a log house that stood where the house of Harold Kilmer was and is now the home of Gayle and Danette Clark. It was owned at that time by one of Ida's uncles, John Woodworth.

Some time previous to the August 1 wedding, Frank had tried to enlist in the Army to fight for his country. He was rejected for physical reasons, and this rejection left him secure, no doubt with the knowledge that he could safely marry without worrying about a long separation imposed by the draft. But somewhere in the bureaucratic logic behind making armies, Frank was drafted one year, 27 days after his marriage and barely a month after his first child was born. Six months later the war was over and Frank was discharged having served 157 days. The closest he came to brutality of was facing the influenza epidemic. It quarantined him and his company at their point of debarkation. He was discharged on Jan. 30, 1919.

Frank came home to a disaster. The livery stable and house he had bought in Norris burned down in his absence. He came home to find that his means of supporting his family no longer existed. He began working for the Montana Power Company and later he found work on ranches near Ennis. Sometime during that time other children were born including son, Daniel Frank.

This work carried the family into the depression, and then

Memories from page 2

because work was hard to find, Frank took his family back to Kansas to work for his father, Bob Armstrong. It was out of the drought and into the dust bowl.

Four years in Kansas was enough and Frank brought his family back to the Madison. Daniel Frank attended school in Ennis, graduated in 1943, was drafted into the Army and served in WWII and was captured and imprisoned as a POW in Germany. After the war, he married Donna Bennetts of Butte in 1947. (Pioneer Trails and Trials Frank Armstrong pg 11 and William E. McKee pg131 by Zora McKee Armstrong) (Daniel Frank Armstrong Obituary April 8, 2010 *Madisonian*) April 27, 2010 Long time Madison Valley resident, **Pamela Kafferlin Sheffield** passed at age 100 at Generations Assisted Living in Ennis. Pamela was born in Shoshone, Idaho on May 9, 1909 to Leslie A. and Mae O. (Erwin) Kafferlin. She married Ben Sheffield on June 22, 1933 and they moved to Montana in 1936 and worked for the Elkhorn Ranch and then they owned and operated the Windy Water from 1946 to 1970. (May 6, '10 *Madisonian*)

April 29, 2010 MVHA member and long time Madison Valley resident **James Ried (JR) Pasley** passed away at age 73 at Bozeman. J.R. was born on Nov. 12, 1936 to Robert Darwin and Mabel Luella Pasley in Jeffers, Montana. J. R.'s grandparents, S. Ried and Myrtle Draper Pasley were both born in Calwood, Callaway County, Missouri and they farmed for a number of years near Fulton, Missouri. Three sons and one daughter, Robert Darwin, Irene, Louis and Joseph Hal were born there. Due to ill health of S. Ried and son, Louis, they moved to Madison County, Montana in 1913. They first lived on the Gilmer place south of Jeffers, and later purchased and moved to the Frank Selby place. They raised hay and cattle. They raised a large garden and Myrtle canned hundreds of quarts of fruits and vegetables. The boys were called early in the morning to help with the chores, to milk the cows and separate the milk. They raised chickens and pigs and always had plenty of meat. Myrtle was a good cook and made pies almost every day, had hot biscuits and made her own light bread. She sold butter, eggs and cream to the residents of Jeffers and Ennis. Most of the cream went to the creamery. Myrtle was a good seamstress and made her and Irene's clothing. They were a thrifty family. the children went to grade school in Jeffers and to Ennis High School. For many years they lived in the original two story log house, which was later moved and used for a barn. They built a modern two story home in 1925. Dar married Luella Hayden Krupp in 1928. Luella was the youngest child born to Mr. and Mrs. Jake Krupp. Her mother died when she was 5 months old and her mother's sister, Mabel Hayden came from Montana and brought her back to Montana with her. Luella went to Jack Creek School, attended Ennis High School, graduated in Michigan while living with her parents. She returned in 1925, worked for the Chownings, attend Butte Business College, worked for Belle Jeffers and then she and Dar were married. At the time that their first child, James Ried (J. R.) was born, Dar was working for the Jeffers General Merchandise Store. They were living in a small house in Jeffers. In 1944, Dar became the manager and part owner of the Marshall Wells

Store and in 1957 he had the Pasley Farm Service and Pasley and Son Construction Company. This is the same year that J. R. married Darlene Reamer. He and J. R. added the Ennis Auto Parts and J. R. learned the trade of mechanic. Another addition was added in 1981 for storage of grains, seeds and machine parts. J. R. continued this business, retiring in 2005 after 46 years of dedication.

(Pioneer Trails and Trials pg 145 and Progressive Years pg 766-767 by Luella Pasley May 6, '10 *Madisonian*)

May 23, 2010 **Mary Ella (Mae)Leth** age 90 at Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. Mae was born on June 11, 1919 at Norris, to George and Thursa(Card) Benson. She was raised in the Orphan's Home in Twin Bridges and married Andy McCuaig. (June 3, '10 *Madisonian*)

June 4, 2010 **Ted Hamilton** age 50 at McAllister. Ted was born on November 8, 1958 to Bill and Lillian Hamilton in Polson, Mt. He attended Montana State University and on September 12, 1981, married Bonnie Gail Owens of McAllister, daughter of long time Madison Valley residents, Lynn and Devona Owens.

June 7, 2010 **Harold Wesley Brown** age 84 at Madison Valley Manor. "Brownie" as his friends knew him, was born Nov.23, 1925 in Wray, Colorado to Thomas and LaVida Brown. In 2002, the adventurous spirit overtook him and Arlene and they made one more big move to Ennis, to be near son, Larry and his family, and to enjoy the view of the Madison Range out their window.

June 30, 2010 **"Smitty" Pricilla Smith Overstreet**, age 84 at Pioneer Medical Center in BigTimber. Smitty was born in Melrose, Massachusetts on Oct. 10, 1925. Smitty's memory will be printed in the October issue of the W T.

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The MVHA has a William and Katherine Ennis celebration on March 17 each year which is the date of William's birthday. This past year the 7th grade students in Dusty Schrock's class wrote poetry and essays about William and Katherine Ennis, the founders of Ennis. The winning essay and poetry were printed in the April WT. For this issue two of the runner up submissions are printed:

### **William Ennis I am a Poem**

by Jarrod Nye

Ennis is a founder and a history maker.

I wonder what life was like for him.

I hear very few stories about him.

I see him digging Morris Creek and building his cabin.

I want to know more about him.

Ennis is a founder and a history maker.

I pretend I help him found Ennis.

I feel the joy when I think about him founding Ennis.

I touch the cabin he lived in.

I worry where I would live if he hadn't found this great place.

I cry at the thought of that.

Ennis is a founder and a history maker.

I understand that we wouldn't live here if it wasn't for him.

I say Ennis is the best town ever.

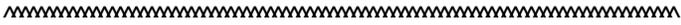
I dream of seeing what he saw when he first arrived.

I try not to forget William Ennis.

I hope you don't either.

Ennis is a founder and a history maker.

**I am Ennis** by George Ball  
 I am founded in 1863 by William Ennis  
 I hear the wind singing  
 I see dancing herds of elk and deer  
 I want to grow and prosper  
 I am founded in 1863 by William Ennis  
 I feel new building being built  
 I touch the leaves as they fly through the wind  
 I worry I might be deserted and abandoned  
 I am founded in 1863 by William Ennis



**Madison County's Civil War Veterans**

As a follow-up on Jeff Safford's excellent presentation at the Association's meeting in April, and recognizing that 2010 marks the 145th anniversary of the end of America's Civil War, Gary Forney thought it might be of interest to provide a bit more information regarding Madison County's Civil War veterans.

**Taps** by Gary R. Forney

In what was almost certainly an incomplete enumeration, the 1890 Federal Veteran's Census identified 150 Civil War vets who were residing in Madison County. The largest group of these (38) were found in the Red Bluff district, and 21 veterans were registered in the Madison Township district. The census also identified a few men who had served with the Confederate forces. The June 1, 1911, issue of the *Madisonian* reported on a Memorial Day ceremony organized by the Frank Blair Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Virginia City. A detail of seven GAR members marched from the auditorium to Hillside Cemetery. The article noted that the graves of 15 GAR vets and 2 Confederate Army veterans were decorated. The article lamented that, "a few years after its organization [the Post] had 75 names on its muster rolls." There were also active GAR Posts at Sheridan (Custer) and Ennis (Moody) at this time. In the autumn of 1926, the Virginia City Eagles Club undertook a project of marking the graves of Civil War veterans with cement markers. This project, which focused upon the cemeteries of the Alder Gulch communities, identified the gravesites of 22 veterans; including 11 of whom who had not appeared on the 1890 Census. The 1926 project included 3 men who had served with the Confederacy and who also did not appear on the 1890 Census. The *Madisonian* of March 11, 1927, reported the death of Jacob Burger, another Civil War vet. The article noted that, at the time of Burger's death, there were only 2 surviving

vets who were still active members of the Frank Blair Post of the GAR (Virginia City); Paul Amberg and Jeffery Fouts. Fouts would be the last of this distinguished fraternity to pass away, in September of 1928.

Leaning heavily upon Sue Ren's work, I have been able to thus far identify fifty-one Civil War veterans (GAR or CSA) who are buried in Madison County; undoubtedly, there are several others who lie in unmarked graves. The lives, and deaths, of each of these men provide wonderful—often poignant—stories. William Reed was a GAR veteran from New Hampshire, who is buried in a pauper's grave at Pony. Archibald McGown was a native of Alabama who served as Captain in the Confederate Cavalry and who, for years, tenderly cared for his invalid wife. Stephen Gainan was from Iowa and with Territorial Governor Benjamin Potts, was among those who marched through Georgia. James Madison Page, who settled near Twin Bridges, survived imprisonment in the hell-hole known as Andersonville and—very controversially--publicly defended the prison's commander. Though these men came from several states and countries, they had all once known the tragedies of war and had shared the dream of a new and better life far from those bloody battlefields in this place called Montana.

**Sources:**

- 1890 Federal Veterans Census of Montana
- Madisonian*
- Miller, M. Mark. "James Madison Page," papers of 2004 Gallatin Valley Historical Society annual conference.
- Progressive Men of Montana
- Ren, Susan Slater. All Should Be Remembered, Vols 1-4.



**History Tidbit:** The Daems Brodge sunk a foot on one side and has been repaired by the Hutchins Bridge builder. July 31, 1903 *Times*

MVHA question: Where is (was) this bridge?

+++++  
**Montana Trivia** Answers to April 2010 issue:  
 5.Columbus 6. Eden





## For Your Reading Pleasure

Hebgan Dam Earthquake August 17, 1959 Remembered  
Excerpts from "They were long and Hard but Happy Days" an autobiography by George C. Hungerford. Paper back (8x11) Approx 35 pages including many color and black and white photos. Available at the MVHA Museum for \$9.00 or order at MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729 for \$9.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling (\$11.00)

Varney, Montana A Condensed History by Don Black for the MVHA. A paperback pamphlet Available at the MVHA museum for \$5.00 or by order at MVHA. P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729 for \$5.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling (\$6.00)

## Looking Ahead

**July 24, 2010 11:00am** Author Talk and Book Signing with Ron V. Rockwell with his recently published book The U.S. Army in Frontier Montana

at the Thexton Rm of the Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis. The MVHA also has his book available for purchase at the Museum.

**August 6 3:00 to ?? pm** Branding Party for Walk of Names Boards. Hamburger BBQ for \$5.00 Tours of the Museum

**August 6-8, 2010** Ennis All School Reunion

**August 16, 2010 7:00pm** Bill Rossiter Singing High Country Ranch Tales Thexton Community Rm of Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis.

**August 19** MVHA tentatively scheduled Field Trip to the Rio Tinto Talc Mine. Time and car pooling, etc. TBA

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson

Vice President: John White

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: Larry Love

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)  
Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month 10:00am. Madison Valley Museum MVHA office.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2010.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: Zora McKee Armstrong Pioneer Trails and Trials page 11 and page 131

Luella Pasley Pioneer Trails and Trials pg 145 and Progressive Years pg 766-767

Jarrold Nye *William Ennis I am a Poem*  
George Ball *I am Ennis*

Gary Forney *Madison County's Civil War Veterans*

Charles "Buck" Crump *The Sun Ranch-Years 1934-1941*

Kevin Brenneke *Montana Trivia*

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 8 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

October 2010

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## From the Wagon Seat:

Now that summer is over and the museum has closed for the season, it is time to take a breather and reflect on our accomplishments since June. For our first season in our new location, we are pleased with the attendance we have had at our new museum. The statistics for our first season at the new site are given in another article in this newsletter.

Our summer field trips have once again proved to be a favorite event for our members who reside during the summer in the Madison Valley. In July, over 70 people traveled with us up the Varney road to visit the old power plant (now a beautiful residence), the Ennis fish hatchery, the Varney school, and the site of the old Varney post office. In August, Dan Northway from the Yellowstone Mine (Rio Tinto's talc mine) gave us a guided tour of the talc mine and its operation. Over 30 of our members enjoyed this trip and came home with rock and talc samples from this operation.

One of the highlights of the summer was the August 6th "branding party" in which we dedicated the "Walk of Names." A big thank you to all the MVHA board and members who helped in many ways with set up, providing cookies, cooking hamburgers, serving, clean up, branding, coordinating the brands and boards, taking guests through the museum and socializing with guests. People brought their branding irons and branded the boards that were routed with their name or names of loved ones. (Remember, the "Walk of Names" project is still ongoing and if you have not done so yet, there is still the opportunity to purchase a board for yourself or to honor someone who is special to you.) The afternoon concluded with a barbecue and socializing that was enjoyed by all. On August 7th, at the all school reunion, the name was drawn for the quilt that we were raffling off. Robert Hughes, who grew up in the McAllister area and now of Enumclaw, WA, was the lucky recipient of this beautiful work of art.

We have returned to our regular third Thursday of the month afternoon programs at the First Madison Valley Bank. In September, Don Black gave a presentation on the "Women of the Madison" in which he shared some stories about our "founding mothers." As you read this, we will have had our October program "People v. Thomas W. Cover" in which Gary Forney plays the role of Moses Veale, U. S. Attorney for the Montana Territory, as he presents evidence surrounding the death of John Bozeman in 1867. In November, Dave Kelley, a local attorney, will present a program comparing East Coast legal traditions with Western legal traditions and will use interesting local Montana stories to illustrate the differences. Then in December, we will have our annual Christmas pot luck dinner and program.

We have concluded Phase 1 of the Otto Coss-Oscar Angle Forge building. The concrete work is finished and we are ready to begin Phase 2 next spring/summer. We are still seeking donations to help with this project, so as tax season approaches and you find yourself in the position to make a donation, remember, we are a 501 (c) 3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. And if you are around next spring/summer and have some carpentry skills, feel free to volunteer to help us with this construction project. It takes all of our members to keep "the wagons rolling."

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

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**History Quilt Raffle** During the last two years the Piece Makers of the Madison made a quilt for the MVHA to raffle. You received a picture of this beautiful quilt and raffle tickets in your April 2010 WT. Many members sold many tickets for this quilt and the final tally was \$2103 worth of tickets sold and a profit of \$1620.44 after expenses of color printing, raffle ticket printing, postage and paying for the materials for the quilt. As Otis mentioned above, Robert Hughes, MVHA member and great contributor (see article this issue) won the quilt and the MVHA was pleased that the winner was also a person who has made contributions to our organization. Congratulations Robert! Special thanks to Terry Engel, MVHA member, who took over the quilt project, designed and made a good portion of the quilt, and sold \$115 worth of tickets. She and Dick helped move the quilt from bank, to bank, to Library and to quilt show. Thanks to June Haigh, MVHA member, who built the quilt frame and helped move the quilt. Shirley and Larry Love also were quilt movers. Top ticket sellers selling more than their allotted \$10 worth were Carolyn Tupis, Flo B. Free, Ann White, Betty Hudson, James Nelson, Ethelyn Hanni, Dottie Fossel, Barbara Pate, Mona Durham, Liz Applegate, Mary Ann Silve, Deb Townshend, and Karen Shores. If you were unable to sell tickets and would still like to help out, donations are still being accepted toward the quilt project.

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the July issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete, updated list for you. Please send any corrections of name or address to the Wagon Tongue.

**Clark, Gayle & Dannette (F)**

168 Ennis Lake Rd. 682-4451

Ennis, MT 59729

**Daems, Joy (I)**

26 Gravely Range Road (682-4838)

Ennis, MT. 59729

(Editors note: Joy actually joined in May but was inadvertently left out of the July Issue. Sorry, Joy)

**Gaughran, Kathleen and George (F)**

630 Nortontown Rd

Guilford, CT 06437

**McClanahan, Dotty & Don (F)**

30623 Sea Horse Circle (951-244-7521)

Canyon Lake, CA 92587

**Morgan, Harriet & Jerry (F)**

P.O. Box 421

Manhattan, MT 59741

**Ramsey(Hendricks),Edna(F)**

4238 Lillian Hall Lane (407-306-0209)

Orlando, FL 32812

**Saunders, Norma & Ray (F)**

16206 128th Pl. S. E. (425-226-5188)

Renton, WA 98058-5507

**Whitaker (Armitage), Kristin & Family (F)**

4161 E. Grandview Circle

Mesa, AZ 85202

**Membership Update** 2010 memberships are all due, There are memberships still outstanding for Jan.(1), Feb.(3), Mar.(1),April(6), May(1) June (2) July (1), Aug.(2) and Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. and Jan.'11 are now due up to the time of the Jan '11 issue of the Wagon Tongue. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons. If your membership comes due before the next Jan. '11 Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

## Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

Long time Ennis resident, **Priscilla Smith Overstreet**, better known as "**Smitty**" passed away on July 1, 2010 at the Pioneer Medical Center in Big Timber. She had lived there since November, 2009. Smitty was the original founder of the Madison Valley History Association in 1989 and the one who started the dream of having a history museum in the Madison Valley.

Smitty was born in Melrose, Massachusetts on October 10, 1925, daughter of Frederic and Edythe Kingston Smith. She was a 12th generation American descended from four passengers on the Mayflower. From her ancestry, one can easily see how she had history in her blood. She graduated from high school during WWII and worked for a defense related company for a few years. In 1946 she and her friend, Joann Goff, rode a Greyhound bus West and eventually got jobs in Yellowstone Park. She worked on a dude ranch in Arizona the following winter and returned to Yellowstone Park for the 1947 season. That year she met James W. "Cap" Overstreet, the cowboy of her dreams, and in September 1947, they were married in Bozeman.

The Overstreets moved to the Lichte Ranch, SW of Cameron on Nov. 9, 1947 to feed cattle for Homer Wilson who had bought the Lichte hay. In the spring of 1948 they moved to the Wall Creek Ranger Station where they herded cattle for the Wall Creek Cattle Association, a job that Cap held for 10 summers. In the winters Cap usually broke horses or did other ranch work. They were on the old Flying D for three winters where Cap broke many horses.

Two winters were spent at the old Call Ranch working for Gerry Gerard breaking horses, feeding, calving etc.

Older son, Jim, was born in Bozeman on Dec. 5, 1949 and younger son, Ried, was born in Ennis, May 15, 1952. When Jim started school, they moved to the Indian Creek Ranch, then part of the Sun Ranch, where Cap worked for more than 18 years. He broke horses there, many of which went for polo horses. He also worked with the cattle. *(continued on pg 3)*

Memories continued from page 2

After leaving Indian Creek, the Overstreets moved to Ennis and Jack Creek until buying acreage on Moran Creek from Vi Thexton. They moved into their new home December 1979. This is the home where Smitty lived until she hurt her back in the spring 2009.

While living at the home ranch of the Flying D, which is in Madison County, the Overstreets were snowed in much of the time. They were eight miles from anyone, but did have a phone, One time they were going to town with the team and sled, It was one of those days with clouds and no shadows, just white. They got off the road several times, and then the team just stopped and refused to move. Cap told Smitty to get out with the boys and walk away from the team and sled. Cap cautiously moved the mares sideways until he could turn them around and find the road again. Looking back where they had been, they found that the mares had gotten above the road and on top of a small outcrop of rocks with an 18 to 20 foot drop or cliff.

Smitty was an avid arrowhead hunter and she proudly displayed her collection in the museum and donated her collection to the new MVHA museum where you can now see her collection.

The MVHA and museum continues today thanks to Smitty's constant work over the years. She worked many hours at the two temporary museums--one at Grandma's Overflow on Chowning Street and the second at 121 W. Main in the Wildlife Building. During the last season at 121 W. Main in 2009, she worked all day every Friday all season long, setting a good example for all of the other MVHA members. She was a tireless volunteer and a fantastic historian. Progressive Years Madison County Vol II pg 765 "Cap" and "Smitty Overstreet by Smitty Overstreet Madisonian Obituary July 22, 2010

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Long time Madison Valley resident, **Jennie Mae Robison Crumley** passed away July 29, 2010 at her home. Jennie was born On May 31, 1920 in Idaho Falls, Idaho to Heber Alvin and Jennie Bybee Robison. She was raised in the Bone, Idaho area and graduated from Iona High School. Jennie married Bill Richard Crumley on June 25, 1942 in Iona. They lived in the Idaho Falls area until March of 1950 when they moved to McAllister where they raised their family and ranched.

Jennie is the older sister of Max Robison. Obituary from *Madisonian* August 5, 2010

+++++  
Longtime MVHA member, **Carol Lee Piper Boyer** passed away Aug. 1, 2010. She was born Mar. 18, 1938 to Theodore Benjamin Piper and Joanne Lee Watkins in Salt Lake City, Utah. Carol Lee's paternal grandparents were Augusta and LD Piper. LD was born in Gillaim, Saline County, Missouri on March 22, 1885, son of Benjamin and Georgia Piper. With his parents in 1894, LD came to the ranch in the Madison Valley known as the Valley Garden Ranch. Her father,

Theodore, was born on the ranch. L.D. was employed by the Montana Power Company during the early development of the power project in the Madison Canyon. He also ran a small farm and her grandmother gave piano lessons to children in the surrounding area and entertained at many social functions.

Carol Lee's maternal grandparents were Andrew Jackson (Jack) Watkins who remained on the home ranch. During his early years as a young man, he was interested in hunting and trapping. He raised Black Angus cattle. He married Ethel May McCormick Winter of Butte, MT. Ethel May started her life in an interesting way, being born on the way from Nebraska to Utah. Jack and Ethel built a most unusual and beautiful log home on the ranch site.

Carol Lee's mother, Joanne, was born Dec. 1918 and married Theodore Piper and later married James Kinsella.

Carol Lee was raised in Ennis and graduated from high school in 1955. She loved music and learned to play piano at her grandparent's home on Ennis Lake. She and her father braved the hard Montana winters to get her to school, often times traversing the frozen Ennis Lake. She married Lloyd Ray Gottlob on Sept 23, 1956 and raised three children in the Ennis area. She married Charles Richard "Dick" Boyer on Jan. 19, 1978 and moved to Bozeman and then Billings in her professional career as office manager in automobile dealerships.

Obituary *Madisonian* Sept. 16, 2010 Progressive Years Madison County Mt II page 768 Robert Davidson. Ruth Juanita Piper by Davidson Piper. Pioneer Trails and Trials .pg 153 LD Piper by Pauline Nelson and pg 197 George S. Watkins Children by Catherine Watkins Carrau

+++++  
Longtime Madison Valley resident and MVHA member, **Max Robison**, passed away Sept 6, 2010 at his home North of McAllister. Max was born on Oct. 1, 1925 to Heber and Jennie (Bybee) Robison in Bone, Idaho. He spent his childhood on his father's ranch. When his father sold his ranch, Max remembered that leaving was one of the hardest things that could happen to a boy. He lost his first pony and an easy ride to all the best fishing holes he had ever known. The family moved to Iona, Idaho near Idaho Falls. But to Max town life was not a good life. Seeking something better and at the young age of 15, he followed his brother, Wayne, to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He learned his work in Wyoming, working for various cattlemen as a rider/ranch hand during the years preceding WWII. He was 17 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In Oct. 1943 he was inducted into the U.S. Navy. After boot camp, the Navy sent him to Moscow, Idaho to communications school. He served his country in the Pacific as a radioman.

After the war, he returned to Idaho and Wyoming, but he did not stay long. In 1946, he was in Montana working with his brother, (continued pg 4)

Memories continued from page 3

Wayne, on a ranch on North Meadow Creek. In 1947 at a dance in Ennis, Dan Segota introduced Katherine (Kate) Armstrong to Max.

Kate and Max were married on March 28, 1948. After the marriage, they lived in a small house across the creek from Wayne's ranch house. Shortly after their third child was born, they moved to the old Squires place. Max bought two sections of farm and hill land. There the family made a ranch and a home.

In his first years in Montana, Max rodeoed in the Montana Rodeo Association. He was all-around champion in the association in 1953.

Each summer Kate and Max drove their cows and sheep to summer pasture. The sheep were the last large band to graze in the Madison. Max and Kate liked to have friends visit them in the mountain camps where they grazed their sheep and cattle. There was always friends to help celebrate the end of the drive to summer pasture. And in the fall, friends were there to help them with the round-up.

Most of the ranch was planted to alfalfa and grass for winter hay. But Max also planted oats. In the fall the family harvested it with an ancient John Deere binder. They shocked the sweet smelling oat bundles to cure in the autumn sun. When it had cured, they hired Slim Rennawanz and his threshing machine to thresh the grain.

Obituary from *Madisonian* Sept. 9, 2010 and Progressive Years, Madison County, MT II pg 694-696 by Katherine Armstrong Robison

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MVHA Member Robert Hughes has provided the WT a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary will be reprinted in this and future issues of the WT. His diary started on Oct. 31, thus the start in the

October issue of the Wagon Tongue.

**DAD'S DIARY By: R R (Bob) Hughes**, October, 1992

Revised, September, 2001

**FOREWORD**

*The following transcriptions were copied from diaries and records, consisting of two small notebooks, a small black journal, and a loose leaf manuscript (handwritten) left by our Dad (Thomas S Hughes). The diaries and records recorded activities for intermittent periods in his life beginning in 1903 up until the middle of July, 1906. The two small notebooks are a handwritten diary of his trip to California and Arizona with his friend, Army Adams.*

*Some punctuation has been added but the spelling is his. Due to the dimness and faded condition of the original writing, in lead pencil, some trouble was experienced in correctly deciphering a few words. The pocket sized notebooks in which he wrote are faded and worn but still in good condition considering that they were carried on horseback, freight train, packhorse, etc. Also, they were written 86 or 87*

*years ago — on the bottom of a frying pan! The first booklet of the trip diary begins with the Oct 31st entry. He did not enter the year. However, the year is established as being 1904 through a calendar date comparison check and through references to a presidential election (1904) entered in the diary itself. Many thanks to daughter in law, Linda, who (in 1992) typed this manuscript into her computer.*

**SPECIAL NOTE RE AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH**  
*Some earlier data/records showed Dad's birthday and year as May 15th, 1885. This has to be an error since he was 21 years old in 1905 according to his own diary entry on Monday, May 15, 1905. The correct date of birth is May 15th, 1884.*

**Diary of Thomas S. Hughes**  
Trip to California and Arizona  
(From October 31, 1904 to early 1906)

PREFACE  
DIARY (Notebook 1)

With pencil in hand and the bottom of a frying pan for a writing desk, I now commence a correct and truthful diarrhea (l ) of my travels hoping that it will be handed down from generation to generation and that all will derive benefit there of.

My very dear friend Army Adam's and myself, having so arranged our business and so disposed of our running capital that we might leave it for awhile, decide that it has fallen upon us to open up new territories for the extension of the common industry which will result in a great benefit to the whole world in general.

After due deliberation, we, for various reasons decide to employ a pack train as our means of conveyance, knowing full well that the discomforts attached to such a mode of travel and especially in the winter months.

With the strictest possible regard for the veracity of each statement, I will now give each days events. I may add that for reasons best known to ourselves we decided to take a very limited amount of money, resolved to get through as much as possible on our own resources.(1) *Perhaps a deliberate misspelling of the word "diary".*

**Oct. 31**

We stayed up all night to pack our horses, all bronchos or outlaws.

Leave home 4 a.m. Go about three miles when Nellies pack slips. All kinds of fun at once. Get off to adjust packs and change saddle horses, Annie and Red stand. Nellie gets scared and bucks into them, and by the moonlight we can see them in the distance, going for the hills. By record breaking sprinting they are finally caught and we again get on our way.

About noon Aunt Annie develops a tendency to lean back very gently on the halter so we put her pack on Red and I ride her. This change suits me very much as Red has been trying to buck all morning.

No breakfast or dinner, we have great anticipation for supper. Camp at Wolf Creek. Late and windy. Can't cook so we content ourselves with the "anticipations". Busy day!

*(continued on pg 5)*

Dad's Diary continued from page 4

**Nov 1st**

Start late. See big bunch of sage hens. I got four fine "shots". Camp. Good feed but in a lonesome hay stack. Decide to start early on this account next day.

**Nov. 2nd**

Cold last night. Army crowds me out of bed on the ground. Says he was following covers. Arise 6:30 We are physical culture advocates may be seen running and kicking every morning. Reason, to get warm. No wood last night meaning no supper. Ate some raw ham. No breakfast this morning. Go on to store at Henry's Lake. Big lunch and provisions. Go on to Registry Station in Park. Here I learn some more things. As a consequence I am carrying my six shooter with cylinder tied to outside. Camp at same place that Army camped a year ago. Good feed. Good supper. Make gun holster, may have sworn a little. Forgot to say that on 1st days ride, while riding along on Aunt Annie, Army asks me what time it is. Watch in hand, I compare time with him, when all at once, in some unaccountable manner, find myself sitting astride a barb wire fence and find Army amidst a bunch of bucking and kicking horses. Get things straightened out, no damage done except a tear in wire where it met the posterior of my anatomy. Mixup unexplainable, except that Nellie pulled my saddle over this causing Annie to buck into the packhorse.

**Nov 3**

We are camped close to upper Geyser Basin. Good feed and fine camp on account of Army knowing Park so well. Seeing things all day, mostly geysers, but an elk track interests me more than all the geysers in the Park. Won't get to see best part of the Park as we haven't time. Just baked a batch of punk in two skillet for dutch oven got it a beautiful brown. No trouble with horses today. Red getting quite civilized, have finally succeeded in getting him tired. Nellie doing fine but had sore back. Army bot a halter and five biscuits today for ten cents. Both of us developing an extraordinary amount of "gall". Dad's Diary continued in Jan 2011 WT

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**Museum closes for Season**

The MVHA museum closed on Sept. 13 after a very successful tourist season.

Have you noticed the busiest folks  
Are always the ones who came through,  
To tackle a project or take on a job  
That others can't find time to do?  
They serve on Committees without pay  
And go door to door for a cause,  
Giving their time and their talents for free  
With no thought or thanks or applause.  
Perhaps you may wonder what manner of folk  
Add to their burden each day,  
By donating hours or service and time  
With never a penny of pay.  
They're people who find it rewarding enough  
To know that because they come through

A project succeeded--a job was well done--  
Some lives were made happier too.  
Perhaps their example will help us to see  
That the world would be better by far  
If more of us shouldered our share of the load  
No matter how busy we are--

The MVHA thanks each and every one of you for the many volunteer hours of time and help to make the very first summer of the first permanent museum for the Madison Valley a huge success. Special thanks to Kevin Brenneke, Zoe Todd and Shirley Love for doing the scheduling of the volunteers. A big thanks to Vern Thibodeaux who was last year's scheduler and who volunteered for every Thursday afternoon this summer. Thanks to Janice Klaumann and Barbara Blomeley, community members, who worked as museum volunteers. Hopefully next spring and summer we can find many more folks who will say yes when called upon to volunteer at the museum:) MVHA needs every one of you!!

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**Where did everyone who visited come from?**

Our guest book at the museum is not an exact science because some of the volunteers do not ask guests to sign and some guests just do not like to sign the book. And some sign (for exp) "Jones Family" and we do not have record of knowing if it is 2 or 6 or whatever unless the volunteer makes a note.

But with the facts that we do have, more than 700 visitors signed the book--pretty good compared to around 800 at old Wildlife site in 2009. Because we were a "work in progress" all summer, we did not advertise state wide or nationally. 392 visitors were from Mont. compared to 178 in '09. 172 were from the Ennis area compared to 18 in '09. MVHA is pleased that our own valley has discovered us!!

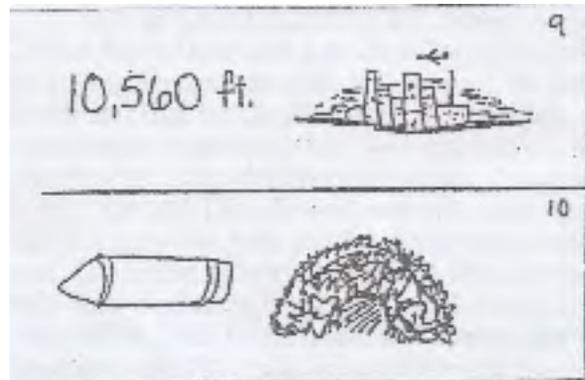
California led the way with 47 signing, Washington with 36, Utah 22, Idaho 17, Texas 15, Nevada and Oregon 12 each, Arizona 11 and Colorado 10. 23 states had less than 10 and 18 states were not recorded. 5 guests came from Canada, 3 from Germany, 2 from China and 1 from Ireland.

The MVHA feels that we had a very good first year at the new "work in progress" site.

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**Montana Trivia** Answers to July 2010 issue:

- 7. Lincoln 8. Roundup



## For Your Reading Pleasure

**Meadow Creek History** by Robert R. Hughes  
The pioneer community of Meadow Creek becomes McAllister. This manuscript is not published but was donated to the MVHA and a copy is available for check out from Larry Love or Otis Thompson.

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## Looking Ahead

**November 18, 2010** Local attorney, Dave Kelley, will present a program comparing East Coast legal traditions with Western legal traditions and will use interesting local Montana stories to illustrate the differences.

**November 27, 2010 Woman's Club Holiday Bazaar.** MVHA will have a table and will need your help as volunteers to man the booth and as customers to place a Walk of Names order or pick up copies of the most recent books and pamphlets MVHA has for sale.

**By Early December** Your history stories, memories of deceased members, history tidbits or any history items to be printed in the January 2011 issue of the Wagon Tongue need to be submitted to the editor no later than the potluck dinner.

**December 16, 2010** Annual Christmas pot luck dinner and program Time and place TBA

**January 20, 2011** Regular meeting at 4:00pm at the First Madison Valley Bank Program TBA

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson

Vice President: John White

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: Larry Love

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month 10:00 am. First Madison Bank conference room.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be January 2011.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

From Progressive Years Madison County Vol II

Smitty Overstreet page 765

Davidson Piper pg 768

Pauline Nelson pg 153

Catherine Watkins Carrau pg 197

Katherine Armstrong Robison pg 694-696

R.R (Bob) Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes*

Kevin Brenneke *Montana Trivia*

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

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# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 9 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

January 2011

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**From the Wagon Seat:** Winter is upon us in grand style. The Madison River has gorged several times and as I write this, the river is flowing across the road just east of Ennis. What a site to see.

Several items have been donated to MVHA since our October newsletter went out. Several members, along with the help of Danny Stroud and his equipment, have retrieved the threshing machine from the old Lichte place above Cherry Creek. It is now displayed on our museum property. Katherine Wonder Brooks donated some old clothes including her dad's (Denny Wonder) World War I jacket and an early Ennis High School band jacket. We have received an historic quilt from Clair Martin, several books and papers from the Smitty Overstreet estate, and Elso and Marlene Rients' daughter donated a computer to be used at the museum.

Speaking of quilts, Robert Hughes, the winner of the quilt that the MVHA raffled off in August, has graciously donated this quilt back to be displayed in the museum. This quilt will be on display when we reopen in May. We wish to thank Robert for this donation.

Our winter programs have been very successful. In October Gary Forney presented the program "People v. Thomas W. Cover" in which he played the role of Moses Veale, U. S. Attorney for the Montana Territory, as he presented evidence surrounding the death of John Bozeman in 1867. Following Moses Veale's presentation, members in attendance voted to have Thomas Cover appear before a grand jury to answer questions regarding the murder of John Bozeman (although in reality, this never happened.) In November, Dave Kelley, a local attorney, presented a program comparing East Coast legal traditions with Western legal tradition and he used local Montana stories to illustrate the similarities and differences. In December, we had our traditional pot luck holiday dinner and our program consisted of members showing old toys and telling why these toys were special to them.

MVHA is now gearing up for the William Ennis Irish Stew Dinner which will be held on Thursday, March 17 in honor of our founding father's birthday. The town of Ennis has declared this date to be William Ennis Day and all are encouraged to attend the dinner to help us celebrate.

MVHA is now the sponsor of the highway cleanup from mile marker 3 to mile marker 5 on Montana Highway 287 (the two miles of road that passes near the museum.) The paper work is being processed to give recognition to MVHA for this community service. Watch for the announcement in the April newsletter as for the cleanup schedule.

Thanks to the fund raising letter campaign of Shirley and Larry Love, MVHA is starting to receive some donations to help with the expenses of Phase Two of the Otto Coss-Oscar Angle Forge building. It appears MVHA will be able to start construction this spring/summer on this project. If we can get volunteer labor to do most of the work, we should be able to pull this off this summer. If you would like to help, keep in touch with the MVHA board members as to the work schedule. We could use your help, both monetarily and physical. Remember it takes all of our members to "keep the wagons rolling."

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

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**History Tidbit:** History is anything that has occurred yesterday and back to the beginning of time. Mary Ann (Neville) Alger called and reported that antelope and Canada geese were resting very comfortably the week after New Year in the field south of Jeffers and across from her home. This is a first for the antelope as she and George have never seen them there before. Antelope have also been observed in the Luci Jones Murphy field east of Hwy 287 right off the Jeffers road. A first for many locals. Even antelope make history as they move out of Pronghorn Subdivision and Antelope Meadows!!

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the October issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete, updated list for you. Please send any corrections of name or address to the Wagon Tongue.

**Hughes, Thomas W. (I)**  
395 Zimmerman Lane 406-363-2318  
Hamilton, MT 59840

**Leitgeb, Allen and Bonnie (F)**  
P.O. Box 88 803-525-1393  
McAllister, MT 59740

**Owens, Devonna & Lynn (F)**  
P.O. Box 123 682-4668  
McAllister, MT 59740

**Whitaker (Armitage), Kristin & Family (F)**  
4161 E. Grandview Circle  
Mesa, AZ 8520

Correction from October 2011

and Madison Valley Manor resident, celebrated her 103 birthday on Nov. 23. See story written by Virginia Black in this issue of the W.T.

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### Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

**Gene Harold Sidener**, 88, formerly of Ennis, passed away on Sept. 12, 2010 in Reno, NV. While residing in Ennis, Sidner was involved in the Madison Meadows Men's Golf Association, Madison Valley Manor and Trinity Episcopal Church.

**Ruth Amelia Phinney**, long time resident of Ennis, passed away Sept. 25, 2010 in Everett, WA at age of 90. She and her husband, Roy, retired near Ennis in 1979 and and enjoyed the Big Sky Country for many years. Ruth was a member of the Madison Valley Baptist Church and volunteered at the Madison Valley Manor where Roy was a resident for many years until his passing in 1996.

**Alice Northway** of Sheridan passed away on Oct. 4, 2010. She and her husband, Ralph Northway, ran the Alder Steak House in Alder.

**Bertie Hotvedt**, former Madison Valley resident, passed away Oct. 4, 2010. In 1975, Bertie and her husband, Elmer, moved to Ennis and purchased the Ennis Drug Store which they ran for many years.

**Craig R. "Rusty" Hebel**, rancher at Glen, MT. passed away on Oct. 23, 2010. He was born Sept. 26, 1960 to former MVHA member, Beverly Martin, and Rollie Hebel. In 1990, he married Margaret Armitage of Ennis. Rusty was a Montana cowboy rodeoing, working on ranches and raising, training and showing strawberry roan Belgians with his father, Rollie.

Local Ennis businessman, **Dan Deadman, Sr.** passed away Oct. 29, 2010. After working for awhile at Luzenac Talc mine in his younger years, Dan teamed up with his brother, Dennis, to start D and D Auto which began in a small garage in 1984. They moved to the current location in 1986 expanding their business to include Car Quest Auto Parts, Lick a Dee Lube and the Car Wash.

**Membership Update** 2010 memberships are now past due, Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons.

The MVHA is currently doing a campaign to raise funds for the Phase II of the Museum. If you made a donation of \$500 or more, your membership status is elevated to Benefactor.

If your membership comes due before the next (April '11) Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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### Member News

**Manny Hoag**, MVHA member and Madison Valley native, was appointed as a new hospital board member. Congratulations to Manny.

**Hal Pasley**, MVHA member and long time Madison Valley resident celebrated his 100th birthday on Nov. 13, 2010. Look for Hal's poetry in this issue of the WT.

**Elso and Marlene Reints** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 13, 2010.

**Eula Wing**, mother of MVHA member Dave Wing

*Memories continued from page 2*

**Mary Alice Hubner Gibbs** passed wy Nov. 5, 2010. She was born to Carl and Ethelyn Hubner in Brendan. In 1944 the family moved to the Hay Camp Ranch where she grew up.

**Margaret (Maggie) Morgan** passed away on Nov. 5, 2010. She was born at Salesville, MT which is now Gallatin Gateway. Maggie attended school at Elk Creek near the Madison River. Elk Creek later became Cherry Creek. Maggie married Harold "Jack" Cain in 1932 and they later divorced. Maggie was the second cook at the Boaz Mine near Norris in the late '30's and early 40's.

**Melissa Severeid**, local Ennis business woman, passed away on Nov. 20, 2010. She and her husband, Kyle, started Corral Creek Coffee Company on main street Ennis.

Madison Valley resident, **Thomas P. Hoe** passed away on Nov. 23, 2010. Tom was born Jan, 12, 1915 in Colorado Springs, CO. He got a degree in Education and after completing a career in various aspects of work ing with young people, he retired in 1977. He and his wife, Ann, moved to McAllister. For 32 years, Tom has entertained Ennis and the surrounding area with his music and poetry. He especially enjoyed playing the guitar, the harmonica and singing with the Ennis Community Choir.

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**Memorials were received for the following during the year 2010**

*Bud Angle  
Dan Armstrong  
Jack Bloxham  
Debbie Leadbetter  
Smitty Overstreet*

*J. R. Pasley  
Glenn Restvedt  
Max Robison  
Ann Sheffield*

The MVHA would like to thank all of those who remembered someone with a memorial to the Museum. Please continue to remember deceased family and friends with memorials to help us continue the museum project.

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MVHA Member Robert Hughes has provided the WT a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31,1904 to early 1906. This diary will be reprinted in this and future issues of the WT. His diary started on Oct. 31, thus the start in the October issue of the Wagon Tongue.

**DAD'S DIARY Submitted By: R R (Bob) Hughes,** October, 1992

Revised, September, 2001

The last issue of the Wagon Tongue left Thomas Hughes on Nov. 3, 1904 in the upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone Park.

**Nov. 4**

Has been a day of bad luck. This morning while banging her old empty head around, Annie breaks my rifle all to hell. Spoils my prospects for a good hunt unless I can get another gun.

Verily, I believe a man would be justified in losing his temper at such a beast.

While crossing a small creek tonight, Nellie gets upset and to save her from drowning, Army, in trying to cut a rope off her neck, nearly cuts her head off with a butcher knife. Takes about forty stitches to close it. Find camp close to Shoshone Lake. Good feed but horses are losing every day. Fine weather, like summer, went without coat all day. Some snow on top of Continental Divide but none here.

For future benefit, will go back to Nov 1st. Saw an attorneys sign on a ranch gate. "Frank McNullet, Attorney at Law, Divorces procured on the quiet".

**Nov. 5**

Camped at Lewis Lake. Good camp and good feed. Fine weather continues. All I lack is a pipe and tobacco. Lost the heel of my boot the other day. Just now put on a high French heel which I found on a slipper at one of the lunch stations. Makes a good heel for a riding boot.

**Nov. 6**

Camped close to Snake River, good feed and fine camp. All kinds of elk signs near. Got out of Park today so intend to hunt tomorrow. Made a main spring for my gun out of a case knife and tied the stock on with buckskin. Might be more dangerous than I look. Looking like snow today.

**Nov. 7**

Took our hunt. Army goes one direction and I go another. He sees 150 elk and 3 grouse, kills one elk and one grouse, I see 3 grouse, no elk, get one grouse. Had elk for supper.

We are about 25 miles from Jackson Lake, so are in the famous Jackson Hole country. Nellie loose tonight and can't get her.

Weather cleared up again.

**Nov 8.**

Slept late this morning. Took us all day to catch Nellie, had to build a corral by falling trees, thereby breaking laws of Forest Reserve. We shall have to dodge game wardens anyway so it doesn't make any difference. Just put an extension on skillet handles. Afraid our supply of cuss words would run out.

Boiled elk heart with dumplings tonight. Bully! Looked like snow again today but is clear tonight. Army bet me a corn cob pipe and a nickels worth of tobacco that it would snow before tomorrow night.

**Nov. 9**

Broke camp this morning and moved to where Army killed the elk. Elk steak for supper. Saw bunch of elk today, certainly is great country for them. Signs as plentiful as cattle signs at home. Windy and disagreeable tonight, trying to scare up a storm. Won the pipe but couldn't extend time any on the bet. This book is getting all fired dirty, I notice, but can't wonder at it as the writer doesn't look like any newly plucked bunch of daisies.

Wonder who is president?

*Continued on page 4*

Entries of Nov. 9th, 12th and 13th all ask "who is president", indicating that a presidential election has just been held.)

**Nov. 10**

This has been pure hell of a day. We attempted to follow a creek from camp to Jackson Lake and have been in almost impassable country all day. Jumping horses over logs and leading them down frozen waterfalls in creek makes for slow progress. Traveled until dark, camped from necessity without much feed or water for horses. Don't know how far we have to go yet and the country looks worse than ever before us (*this part unclear*). We shall never see our happy home again.

The weather has cleared up again and couldn't be better. If it were snowing we would indeed be out of luck.

**Nov. 11**

Finally got out of our trap by crossing a couple of Hell holes and followed an elks trail to the lake. Bum camp. Lots of poor feed and a lake within a hundred yards but no water. The only redeeming feature is the view. We are camped at the foot of the Teton Mountains and the three Grand Tetons seem to rise straight out of the lake. It is a beautiful sight but I am too damned thirsty to enjoy it. Army and I quit swearing today, we got ashamed of ourselves.

**Nov. 12**

Fine camp tonight, anyway, we appreciate it after being in that modern Hell yesterday. Water has kind of yellow taste, but is wet and awfully cold. Only came about 12 miles today. Horses getting awfully tender footed and have had a hard rocky road today following a lake. Nellie seems a little sick tonight or else she is just mad. We, Army and I, were both a little discouraged today, we are afraid this fine weather will end before we can get across Teton Pass. A big snow would shut us in. Tonight after eating about 15 lb. of elk steak, things look brighter. Weather is certainly extraordinary. Hell of a game law they have here, poor devils like us have to dodge game wardens when we only killed one elk and took all of it for food, while these folks in here go out and kill enough for all winter only taking best part. There's a grand mistake someplace. Gun license for a nonresident \$50.00. Violators are rewarded by confiscating their whole outfit and 25 to 90 days imprisonment if they can't pay fine. Would look well after they got \$50.00 out of us. Don't remember of ever seeing that much, besides we expect to live on that elk for a month.

Bought sugar and coffee at a store today. Army wanted to buy me the pipe I won but thought I wouldn't commence again. Both of us swore a couple of times today but will do better tomorrow. Don't know who the president is yet!, was afraid to ask today, don't want to show our ignorance. They probably didn't know in here anyway as it's about 150 miles to railroad.

Saw a woman today. Blamed thing came tearing along on a pinto horse and actually smiled or grinned at us. Can't imagine the reason. She had spurs on bigger than mine, and a great big sombrero hat. Looked wild and wooly to me.

**Nov. 13**

Gee Whiz! its 1:30 P.M. (*he must mean A. M.*) and not in bed yet. Camped close to a cow punchers cabin and have been visiting with him. Traded my six-shooter to him for a 40-65 caliber rifle, and my old rifle barrel, for that's all there was left of it, for a hunting knife and a pair of elk teeth.

Asked the cow puncher who was president and he didn't know and "didn't care a damn".

**Nov. 14**

About halfway up Teton Pass tonight. Altitude of pass is about 8400. On a tree above my head there is the names of two young couples and a married woman who formed a park party last year from Idaho Falls. As I look at the names I can imagine tongue sucking and biting of ears (*on the* ) ground among these pine needles. Gee!

The weather is still good but can't stay that way much longer. Won't quit snowing when it commences here. The people pile their wood on end against trees, etc. so they can find it in the snow.

I killed a sage hen with my new gun today. Shoots fine.

**Nov. 15**

Discovered this morning that I lost my cartridge belt full of shells yesterday. That means I am out of ammunition for my gun.

Crossed the pass alright but weather looks unfavorable, cloudy and disagreeable this morning. Camped tonight in Victor. Horses in a livery stable and we are sleeping in a hay loft. Trying to snow tonight. Accommodating cuss runs the barn. Feeds our horses all night for 75c. Hay is cheap here, \$3.20 a ton, good alfalfa and timothy.

**Nov. 16**

Weather not quite so bad this morning, seems to clear up every night and cloud over every day. Repaid our accommodating friend by beating him on a horse trade, his own fault though, he jumped me for a trade. Traded him Annie for a little spotted white mare. Has seen better days but you can actually lead her, and she has a more pleasant disposition which will be a saving of cuss words. Stiff in three legs, but I could have traded Annie for a saw horse if I had the chance. Camped tonight on a fellows ranch on Swan Valley and have horses turned loose in his pasture. Gave him a piece of elk meat about as big as your fist and, before he got over expressing his gratitude, asked him what the pasture bill would be. It would look bad to charge much with a piece of elk meat in your hand so of course he said it would be nothing. Diplomatic, eh, he'll be sorry of it before morning.

Clear again tonight and they tell us we can expect good weather until Christmas. By that time, with the good Lords help, or rather Old Red's we shall be where they have good weather all the time.

Forgot to say that this country is just full of pretty girls. Have a notion to stay here.

We found out today who was pres. Asked a store clerk who happened to be a Republican and in his enthusiasm gave Army 5c too much change "That helps some".

Thomas Hughes Diary continued in April 2011 WT.

\*\*\*\*\*

### My friend celebrates 103 years by Virginia Black

What would we do without friends?

I have been blessed in my lifetime with friends. Let me share with you my friend, Eula Wing. She is a very special lady.

We celebrated her 103rd birthday on Nov. 23. Her son, David, and Eula shared with us some "high lights" of her 103 years journey. But first, I wish to share the Eula I grew to know and love. She has a very quick mind and knows right from wrong and brave enough to tell you! She realizes that her memory sometimes takes time out. But ours also forgets. Eula takes pride in her appearance and is quick to tell you the same. She likes to be treated as a friend and will do the same for you.

Eula also needs to be treated with respect. She still has feelings and the young Eula is still inside that person you see. Remember to really listen, love, encourage, forgive and most of all she needs friends she trusts. At the age of 103, she has lots of experience and stories to share with her friends and family. So stop by and enjoy Eula. It will make your day!

Eula, the eldest of eight children, was born Nov. 23, 1907 on the family homestead at Deer Park, Wash.

Her father, Lester H. Thompson, and his bride, Bessie M. Thompson, had previously rode an immigrant train from Illinois with registered Hereford cattle and personal belongings to Washington State where he had taken out a homestead.

In 1910 Lester was looking for a better place to raise livestock and remembering the Gallatin Valley and great grass that he saw when he came through a few years earlier, he returned with his family and stock, settling on a farm where the Cashman Nursery is now. Eula started school at the Nelson District school where the Riverside Country Club is now located.

In 1915 they moved to a ranch on Bear Creek near Salesville (now Gallatin Gateway) and she continued school at the Little Bear Creek School.

They moved again to Bozeman to a ranch at the end of South Wilson Ave. where she attended the Longfellow and Emerson Schools, graduating from Gallatin High School in 1926.

In 1931 Eula graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois with a degree in Nursing. She worked as a nurse at the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and for several doctors in Bozeman.

On February 23, 1932 she married Leonard A. Wing and they had two sons, Richard and David. She and her husband ranched near Manhattan and Toston.

Eula moved to the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis to be near her son David and his wife, Jerry.

Thank you, David, for sharing your mother.

(edited due to space limitations)

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### My Hearing Aid by J. Hal Pasley

You say I need a hearing aid

I really don't know why

If you would stop your mumbling

you can if you would try.

And speak the way you used to speak

so many years ago

I'd understand each word you say

and save a lot of dough

At last I have my hearing aid

I hope you're happy dear

Just mumble to your hearts content

your voice is loud and clear

I went to see the doctor

he put them in my ear

I'm hearing sounds I haven't heard

for many, many years

The red one in my left ear

the blue one in my right

I kept them in the whole day long

then took them out that night

And then when morning rolled around  
as morning always do

I thought I'd practice up a bit

and put them in a time or two

I thought I'd practice up a bit

and put them in a time or two

I knew I'd have a problem

but still I had to try

The one end went straight up my nose

the other hit my eye

But I was most persistent

it was all my fault no doubt

I finally got them in my ears

then couldn't get them out

But now my trouble is over

it's easy as can be

Then all at once they start to peep

they need a battery

They have a little on-off switch

on the part behind my ear

I turn off when someone speaks

whom I don't choose to hear

I'm really glad I got my aids

I needed them I know

The one thing that still bothers me

they cost a lot of dough.

(Editor's note: Hal has all this poetry in his head. As he recites each, a family member writes each poem down.)

## For Your Reading Pleasure

**Yonder a place in Montana** by John Heminway The West Boulder valley lies nestled in the Montana Rockies, and when acclaimed travel writer John Heminway first laid eyes on the dilapidated Bar 20 Ranch he knew he was home. “Any sensible person would have walked away, but for me the Bar 20 was perfection”

Available at Ennis, Boulder, Clancy, Dillon, Twin Bridges and Whitehall libraries.

## Looking Ahead

**Feb. 17, 2011 4:00pm** Monthly meeting at First Madison Valley Bank Program to be announced.

**March 17, 2011** William Ennis Birthday Celebration Watch for publicity on dinner and other activities.

**By late March and early April** Your history stories, memories of deceased members, history tidbits or any history items to be printed in the April issue of the Wagon Tongue need to be submitted to the editor .

**April 21, 2011 4:00pm** Monthly meeting at First Madison Valley Bank. Program to be announced.

**Help needed** The board of directors of the MVHA needs ideas for future programs and will need help to put on the William Ennis birthday party. Please contact any director with your ideas and to volunteer to help. Everything that you can do to help in any way will be much appreciated.

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**Montana Trivia** Answers to October 2010 issue:

9. Butte 10. Red Lodge

Trivia will continue in April 2011 issue

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

### Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson

Vice President: John White

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: Larry Love

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April 2011.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: Virginia Black “*My friend celebrates 103 years*”

J. Hal Pasley “*My Hearing Aid*”

R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes Nov. 4- Nov. 16, 1904*

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 9 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

April 2011

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## From the Wagon Seat:

The calendar says spring is here, but from the weather we've had here in the valley for the past few weeks, I think the calendar is wrong. Anyway, we should be having some warmer days soon. And with warmer days comes more activity at the MVHA museum site. Our fund raising efforts have been somewhat successful and we believe we now have enough money to begin construction of the Otto Cross-Oscar Angle Forge Building. The foundation was poured last summer and construction on the building should begin in May. Ticker Jones will serve as construction boss with the work being done by MVHA member volunteers. Kieth Mainwaring has offered to help and Larry Keifer will be on hand to oversee the installation of the original forge equipment. So those of you who are available when work begins will be asked to volunteer a few days to help with the construction.

The "Walk of Names" project is still ongoing. We have sold 257 boards and have had promises of some more purchases to come. I want to thank all of you who have purchased boards and made this project such a success. We now have enough boards to complete the walkway down to the parking lot and will soon start on the ramp that goes off the porch toward the Forge Building. If you or someone you know wants to honor someone, we are still accepting orders for boards. The price is \$50 and the board will be routed with the recipients' names (and brands if they have one.)

Our monthly programs have been well received this winter. Joe Smithson was our January speaker and gave a very interesting presentation on the Highland Mary Mine and other related stories. In February, Joe "Red Feather" Bettinger, a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe, presented a informative (and entertaining) program on Native Americans with special emphasis on the Lemhi-Shoshone. On March 17, the MVHA had its third annual William Ennis Day Birthday Celebration complete with Irish stew, Irish soda bread, Blarney Stones, Irish tea, birthday cake, and Irish accordion music played by Jan Beekman. The MVHA also sponsored a writing contest, "I like William Ennis because....," for the Ennis Junior High School 8th graders. Walker McKitrick won the contest and he and his family enjoyed a complimentary dinner at the Birthday Celebration and Walker received a copy of Jimmy Spray's book *Early Days in the Madison Valley* for his prize.

We have some exciting presentations scheduled for our regular Thursday afternoon presentations in April-June. Then in July and August we will have our traditional MVHA field trips. Keep watch in the *Madisonian* for the announcement of these events.

The paper work has been filed with the Montana Department of Transportation to recognize the MVHA as the sponsor for cleaning two miles of Montana Highway 287 in front of the Museum site. As soon as we receive the materials, we will schedule a safety training program for volunteers and then we will have our first "clean-up" party.

Our condolences go out to the Chuck "Charlie Brown" Armitage family with the passing of Charlie. Charlie was quite a collector of photographic memorabilia of Ennis and the surrounding area. Charlie had promised his collection would go to the MVHA with his passing. His sister, Esther Warburton, followed through with Charlie's request and the MVHA now has a storage room full of Charlie's photos. We hope to sort through this collection and then have a rotating display of his photographs on the Museum walls.

Election of two board members will take place at the general membership meeting in May. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact one of the members of the nominations committee, Larry Love or Neil Kent. And if you are around in May, expect a call from one of us to come help with the construction project. Let's keep the wagons rollin'.

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

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**History Tidbits** Brooks DeHoney, a trapper from Meadow Creek area, got a coyote measuring 68 inches long on the Revenue Mine (Madisonian March 28, 1924 from Sue Ren)

1970's: Meanings have changed: Olive Losee's School House Gallery and Pot Shop which was opened in 1971 seems to be an example of the type of development the community needs more of. By Minnie Paugh by way of Don Black

|                                                                                                                                         |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Welcome to Membership</b> The following have joined since the January issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. |                                      |
| <b>Bill Bry (I)</b>                                                                                                                     | P.O. Box 4356<br>Eagle, Co 81631     |
| <b>Evhen Tupis (I)</b>                                                                                                                  | 17050 Ladue Rd<br>Holly, N. Y. 14470 |

**Membership Update** 2010 memberships are now past due and 2011 memberships are starting to come due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons.

The MVHA is currently doing a campaign to raise funds for the Phase II of the Museum. If you made a donation of \$500 or more, your membership status has been elevated to Benefactor. If your membership comes due before the next (July '11) Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Member News**

Longtime MVHA member, **Don ('Kid') Neville** celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb. 7.

Local historian and MVHA member, **Gary Forney**, has his latest book available. It is entitled It Takes all Kinds. Dick Pace began the book and although he was unable to complete the project before his death, he left an outline and chapter drafts which Gary was able to use in completing the poignant token of Dick's forty year legacy of living and working in Virginia City. The MVHA will be hearing from Gary later about this book.  
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**Memories**

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that

will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

Dec. 28, 2010 **Jerry Lee Smith** passed away in Three Forks. Jerry's father, Lloyd, was born in Conrad, Mt. He left that area in the fall of 1936 and he and a friend came to the McAllister area to work at the Hagl Sawmill up North Meadow Creek. Lloyd married Sarah E. Mize on Oct. 28, 1940. Jerry was born of this union on Jan. 12, 1945 in Bozeman. He grew up in McAllister and played, fished, hunted, trapped and explored the Meadow Creek area he loved so much. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1963. He married Roberta Roberts of Whitehall on June 14, 1965. After serving in the Army, he and Roberta purchased the Texaco Station in Norris. Then after working out of the area for many years, Jerry came full circle and his final job was back at Norris as service manager for A. M. Welles. Jerry's father and mother, Lloyd and Sarah Smith still have a home out of McAllister on the lake. Obituaries *Madisonian*, Jan. 6 '11 Progressive Years, pg 697-698

**David Allen Doherty** passed away on Jan. 2, 2011 at his home in Ennis. Dave was born Aug. 17, 1924 in Butte, Mt. He was raised in Butte and started his education career at Montana Tech, and then served his country in the Air Corps. After W.W.II, he attended Montana State College in Bozeman getting a Master's Degree in Mathematics and Physics. He and his wife, Dorothy, moved to Ennis where Dave taught school for over 9 years. Then they moved to Seattle where he worked for Boeing. After 25 years there, they moved back to Ennis for retirement in the 1980's. Obituaries *Madisonian* Jan 6 '11

Long time MVHA member and a prominent area rancher, **Gene Walsh**, passed away on Jan. 14, 2011. He was born to Carter and Elizabeth Walsh in Stockton, Calif. on Nov. 1, 1924. In Dec. of 1950, he married Lois Shields and in 1956, he brought his young family to Montana and took up ranching in the Madison Valley. He and his family have owned and operated a cattle ranch south of Cameron since 1957. He was proud of the registered quarter horses and cattle that were produced there. For many years the cattle were trailed from the home ranch to summer range in the beautiful Centennial Valley. Obituaries *Madisonian* Jan. 20, '11

**Roger Ray Reichman** passed away on Jan. 23, 2011 in Billings. He was born Aug. 15, 1946 to Warren and Wilma Reichman of Sedan, MT. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Missoula where his father graduat-

(continued on pg 3)

**Memories** (continued from pg. 2)

ed from the School of Journalism. His parents purchased the Madisonian and moved to Virginia City in 1950. Roger attended school in VC through the 8th grade and graduated from Ennis High School in 1964. He got a degree from the U of M, joined the Air Force retiring in 1989. After retirement, he purchased a small ranch at his birthplace at Sedan, MT where he lived until passing on Obituaries *Madisonian* Jan. 27, 2011.

**Malvin R. Estes** of Beaverton, Oregon passed away on Jan. 27, 2011. He was born July 21, 1938 in Ennis to Malvin V. and Katherine F. (Hinton) Estes. He was raised and received his education in Ennis, graduating from Ennis High School in 1957. He attended Western Montana College in Dillon and Montana State University before entering the Marine Corp in 1962. After his service years, he worked for TWA Airlines and for IBM. Obituaries *Madisonian*, Jan 27, '11

**Mark Austin Jeffers** passed away on Feb. 26, 2011 at age of 63. Mark is preceded in death by father, Paul Myron Jeffers, father -in- law, Howard Stephens and nephew, Corporal Joshua Wade Cody. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Sharon Stephens Jeffers, His mother, Ardis Emma Jeffers, son, Michael Todd Jeffers and daughter Laurel Christine Jeffers and three grandchildren, Emma Adeliegh, Annelise Elizabeth and Micah Patrick Jeffers. Mark graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He was a professional petroleum engineer for 29 years serving many companies including Amoco, British Petroleum and Seagull Energy, where he served as vice president of drilling and production before retirement. Mark, Sharon and their children settled in Richmond, TX in 1988. Here he began his every tenacious and brave battle with cancer. Mark was the grandson of Paul and Pink Jeffers and great grandson of Myron and Florence Jeffers. Memory submitter by Shirley Jeffers Gustafson.

**Harold "Charlie Brown" Armitage** passed away March 9, 2011 at his home in Ennis. He was born March 24, 1931 in Ennis to pioneer family, Charles "Chick" and Lenora "Sis" (Wiedner) Armitage." Charlie Brown's" grand father, Charles Harry Armitage was son of Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Armitage and was born in Virginia City. He parents moved to Helena where Charles attended school. When a young man, he and his brother, Jesse, opened a jewelry store in White Sulfur Springs, Mt. Tiring of indoor work, Charles came to the Madison Valley and took up a homestead on Indian Creek, being the first person to take up land in that vicinity. He build a good sized house, barn, sheds and corrals. In Feb. 1888, he married Miss Emma O. Whitney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otis C. Whitney, pioneers of Montana. Charles and Emma had five children, one of them "Charlie Brown's" father, Charles A. "Chick" Armitage.

"Charlie Brown" lived all of his life in Ennis except 1958-1961 when he lived in California working for TWA Airlines. He worked for Leonard McAtee operating the Blue Moon Saloon at Cameron and later operated the bar himself. He worked for the US Postal Service as a rural route driver for 30 years. Pioneer Trails and Trials p 8

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Lester Klatt, long time MVHA member, provided this story in memory of his brother, Ernie Klatt.

Ernest Louis Klatt was born May 17, 1917 at Denton, Mt. His time in the Madison Valley began in 1946 when he and his brother, Cecil, purchased the Wall Creek Ranch south of Cameron from Ben and Laura Lockhart.

My experience with Ernie in the valley was to stay with him when Cecil's family was not at home, this being mostly in the winter. Roads were real tough from the McAtee bridge past the Lichte place/Holts and on to the ranch at Wall Creek. A couple of experiences--I was awakened one morning with this hollering. Looking out the window, I see batch lor, Ernie, with a broom, chasing the moose from the load of hay in the yard. He was dressed in long johns and 4 buckle overshoes.

Another time after a week or more of living as hermits, we decided to go to town. A team of horses and bob sled took us a mile to the "lower place". There the universal jeep had been left in low range, 4 wheel drive so when we pulled it with team all 4 wheels would not turn--so the engine would not start. We drove the team back to the ranch barn and checked out the thermometer -27° below. Well, we decided to still go to town so put on the snow shoes and headed cross country. Part way there was a yearling moose caught up in the fence. We twisted the wire from both sides and the moose ran off across the open field. On to the Shelton's for warming up and coffee with Glen and Bev. Then to the highway and down to the Hippe place. From there we caught a ride to Ennis. You know, I can't remember how we got home. Maybe Gib Clark or Eddie Shipman brought us back?

Ernie was raised and completed high school while on his Dad's farm in the Dakotas. He was in World War II stationed in England with the U.S. Air Force--B17's. There is a Veterans block for him the Memorial in Ennis.

After the ranch was sold, Ernie moved to Bozeman and married Shirley Craver. He had a job with Milan's Nursery, driving the pink trucks. He said he enjoyed delivering the pretty roses to the ladies.

Enduring several years of cancer treatments, Ernie joined his savior on March 7, 2003 at 85 years of age.

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**William Ennis Day Birthday Celebration**

Willaim Ennis, the founder of Ennis, was born in County Down, Ireland on March 17,1828. In honor of his birthday the MVHA had the third annual William Ennis Day Birthday Celebration on March 17 which replaced our usual meeting for the month of March. The mayor made the proclamation and we have more to celebrate in Ennis on March 17 than just St. Patrick's Day. An Irish Beef Stew dinner was held at the Fire Hall with Vicky Noack catering the stew and coleslaw and MVHA members providing the Irish Soda Bread and Blarney Stones and did the serving for theevening. Birthday cake was donated by Madison Foods, cole slaw serving cups donated by Bynee's, napkin wrappers from Yesterdays, water pitchers and packets of honey and butter by Ennis Cafe, and advertizing banners by Pepsi.

(continued pg 4)

**William Ennis Day** (continued from page 3)

Please thank the businesses for their donations and support them with your patronage.

Jan Beekman provided Irish music on her accordion and Larry Love sang a few Irish songs. Don Black made a 2011 edition custom made Connemara Marble necklace with marble from Ireland which the MVHA sold by silent auction. Many local businesses got into the fun for the day with specials at their stores and Irish music playing during the day. A great time was had by all and you missed a great celebration if you did not get to participate.

The MVHA also sponsored a writing contest, "I like William Ennis because.." at the Ennis Junior High School and Mr. Bills' 8th graders participated. **Walker McKittrick's** essay received votes from all four judges and won the contest. He and his family enjoyed a complimentary dinner. Walker read his essay to the gathering and received a copy of Jimmy Spray's Early Days in the Madison Valley.

Walker McKittrick submitted this essay:

I like William Ennis because.. William Ennis was born on March 17 in County Down, Ireland in 1828. He came to the United States in 1863 He settled in the Madison Valley while in the freighting business. He lived in a small log cabin in present downtown Ennis. He opened a store, which later became the post office. He became postmaster of the post office. He upgraded to a thirteen room mansion three years later.

William was shot on June 18, 1898. He was hospitalized about a month, and died on July 4, 1898. He was shot by his neighbor. He is a hero for establishing the settlement of Ennis, MT.

Congratulations, Walker, on your essay and thanks to the judges Jane Rybus, Shirley Love, Phyllis Wasick and Larry Love.

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MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes)diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010 and second in Jan. 2011. If you have missed the first two installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 2 issues.

DAD'S Diary submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes. The Jan. '11 issue left them on Nov. 16 and they had just learned who was president.

**Nov. 17**

Camped tonight on Antelope Creek on a mans ranch. Horses in the barn eating good timothy hay for 25c a pair. This Idaho is certainly a cheap place to live. Weather still good.

Nellie had commenced to get a fistula so I traded her off this morning for an old saddle horse, older than I am.

Didn't get much but was not trying to make a good trade, just wanted Nellie to get a good home. She will get to run in a pasture now and may get well where if we keep her she would have to keep right on going.

Besides we can get more out of this old skate as he is a good saddle horse yet.

**Nov. 18**

Roaded 35 miles today. Got into Idaho Falls about 5 o'clock. Windy and dusty all day. Put the horses in a livery stable, expect to stay in town all day tomorrow. This place seems to be booming, but is about the toughest hole I ever saw. About 3000 people and growing right along. Big sugar factories close to town. Army and J.D. Smith had an oyster eating contest this evening.

**Nov. 19**

Haven't left town yet but will leave this afternoon. Looks like we are strictly up against it. Got about \$10.00 yet and 500 miles to go on it. Worst of it is, we will have to buy feed from now on and can't even do that south of here is our most direct route, as it isn't settled up very much. No respect for a poor devil here. One good thing, we have about 300 lbs. finest meat in the world so won't get very hungry for awhile.

Wrote to Mabel today, didn't tell her exact circumstances. Got a haircut and shave this morning, from outside appearances am apt to be taken for some railroad magnate or at the least some wealthy cattleman, while if the truth be known, I feel like thirty about half spent. My experience of human nature is that a man should never let people know how hard up he is. Somebody said "laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone" Whoever wrote that didn't go around with his eyes shut.

Left the city about 3 o'clock, went out of town about 8 miles, camped on an old girls' ranch. Bought hay of her. Evidently didn't look very good to her as she made us pay in advance. It's queer, the difference in people. Asked a fellow down the road where there was someone who had lots of horses, meant to strike him for a job twisting and this fellow took us for horse buyers. Ate supper with a horse thief last night and he didn't seem to think we were in the wrong kind of company. Idaho Falls full of horse thieves and they seem to be proud of it.

**Nov. 20**

Bad luck again. Something wrong with Red this morning, could hardly get out of barn .Went within about 3 miles of Blackfoot City today, had to stop, Red couldn't go no farther. Knocks us out completely, well have to put horses in pasture for awhile. Worst country in the world to get laid over in, they never saw more than 15 cents at one time here and that belonged to some one who didn't live here. They won't give you a pleasant look without you pay in advance for it.

**Nov. 21**

Laid over today. Red still lame so we are looking for pasture for the horses, and intend taking the train out of here, leaving them for awhile. Are trying to sell some of our elk meat, may get into trouble as we don't know who we can depend on. Got to risk it though as we need the money. Hell of a country, toot hole of the world.

**Nov. 22**

Still in Blackfoot. There isn't a good pasture in whole damn country. I've been sicker than a dog all day and Army is doing all the rustling. Sold a piece of meat for a dollar and 50 lb. of grain tonight. Red still lame, don't

(continued pg. 5)

**Dad's Diary** (Continued from pg. 4)

know just what we will do yet. Hate to leave horses in this god forsaken country, for that would mean another trip in here and I've got enough of this country. Only redeeming feature is the weather, they don't expect any winter at all until Xmas.

**Nov 23**

Am writing this by moonlight. Still in Blackfoot, intend to leave in the morning, taking the whole bunch. Red still lame but will pack him. Army sold the rest of our elk meat for \$3.00 today. Have just been on a tour of inspection through a sugar factory, trying to absorb a little knowledge. Would have stayed longer but every floor walker or manager on the job got to asking us if we wanted a job, so we left. Was afraid they might use compulsory methods to put us to work. I haven't done anything that I know of to warrant such punishment, \$2.40 per day and eat yourself for \$1 per day.

**Nov 24**

Left Blackfoot today. Traded Red and Fidge for a little brown mare and a mean little devil off of the Lost River Desert. Red was so lame on the stifle that he couldn't travel and Fidge had a running sore on her withers. Probably got beaten on the trade except that we can keep on traveling with these and couldn't with the others. Had a can of sardines for Thanksgiving dinner, expect to do better next year.

**Nov. 25**

Came through Pocatello today. Bum town, everybody broke. A fellow struck Army to get something to eat. Probably took him for a millionaire in disguise. Army had just exactly 50 cents in his pocket. We don't look so nearly broke as we are. Our new "pet" can kick farther than any cayuse I ever saw, and always seem to be trying to establish a new record.

**Nov. 26**

A typical Weary Willie came along last night. Fixed him a bed and fed him. In the visions which I have over the rest of our grub, I can see the Hon. T. S. and his side kicker A. A. and the picture looks strangely similar to our guest of last night.

**Nov. 27**

Laid over today, intended to sell a horse or two. Forgot about it being the Holy Sabboth.

**Nov. 28**

Left all the horses and hit the "pike" last night. Got into Ogden this morning. Nearly froze to death last night until "brakey" found us and he hauled us out, made us dig up and then put us in a better place. Told him we didn't have any money so he took a couple of old jack knives and an elk tooth. We didn't have to stretch the truth very much about not having any money as we have just \$2.60 between us. Could go to work here but want to get farther south. Very pretty place. Would like to stay awhile.

**Nov. 29**

Still in Ogden

**Nov. 30**

Came on down to Salt Lake this afternoon. Fine place, saw more girls in one string tonight than I ever

saw before. Were office girls just going from work every blamed one of them good looking. Bumming around taking in the town tonight. May stop and work here awhile.

To be continued in July 2011 Wagon Tongue

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**Museum Opening** The new MVHA museum will open over Memorial Day weekend May 28, 29 and 30 and then open for the 2011 season on June 14. Hours will be 1:00 to 4:00pm. The MVHA will be calling on you to volunteer at the museum so please say yes. For folks who live out of the valley, plan your trips to Ennis and call and let us know when you can volunteer. You will be working in teams of two so you will not be alone and it is fun visiting with the guests from all over and catching up on Madison Valley History in the quiet times.

The construction of the Otto Coss/W.S. Angle black smith shop will start in early May and this addition will help a lot in adding to the display space. It is not too late to make a donation toward the blacksmith shop if you have not done so already. Every dollar helps and as we have said over the years "We are building this museum one dollar at a time."

The Walk of Names continues and if you still want to honor your family or give a memorial to departed family members, just request an application or better yet, just write the name/names as you want them to appear on the board and mail that and \$50 to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

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**High Winds Whip Snow Into Worst Blockade of Winter**

Temperatures moderated this week, bringing some relief after a two months cold spell, but high winds prevailing throughout this section have whipped the prolonged winter's accumulation of snow into the worst blockade of the season.

Ennis and the Madison Valley had been without highway communications yesterday. since Sunday, except momentarily Wednesday when the road to Norris was opened by snow equipment only to fill in again within a brief period.

Ennis mail piled up at the Virginia City post office, as the best efforts of county and state equipment failed to break the blockade which had existed on the Madison Valley side of the Virginia City-Ennis hill since Sunday. County Commissioner Chas. E. M. Bauer of Ennis was unable to attend the board's regular February session here this week, although he kept in telephone communication with his fellow commissioners, W. H. McKenzie of Alder and John W. Lasich of Twin Bridges.

Neither county nor state crews engaged in battling the mounting snow drifts would predict when the Ennis blockade might be relieved. High winds continued to whip the afflicted area yesterday, undoing in minutes what had cost the laboring crews hours to accomplish. *Madisonian* Friday, February 11, 1949 Article provided by Carol Hacker of Alder.

## For Your Reading Pleasure

### Montana Place Names From Alzada to Zortman A

Montana Historical Society Guide by the Montana Historical Society Research Guide. This book explores the origins of more than 1,200 place names, including entries describing town and cities, geographic features, parks and battle field, properties on the National Register of Historic Places and more.

Available from the Montana Historical Society in Helena

## Looking Ahead

**May 19, 2011** MVHA Annual meeting. Potluck dinner at Trinity Church in Jeffers at 5:00pm. Program will be Zoe Ann Stoltz with Branded! Brands and brand histories offer a wonderful glance into our past. You will be called or e mailed as to what potluck item to bring.

**June 16, 2011** MVHA monthly meeting at 4:00pm at the downstairs meeting room at the First Madison Valley Bank. Program will be Gary Forney with his latest book It Takes All Kinds which was the book started by Dick Pace and finished by Gary.

**July** will be a field trip to be announced. Watch the Madisonian and you will be called or e mailed.

**Montana Trivia** Only room for one this month.



Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson

Vice President: John White

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: Larry Love

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00 am at First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April and at Museum MVHA Office May to Sept.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2011.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes Nov. 17- Nov. 30. 1904*

Lester Klatt *Story of Emie Klatt*

Shirley Gustafson *Memory of Mark*

Austin Jeffers

*Madisonian* Obituaries

Carol Hacker provided the *Madisonian*

copy of *High Winds Whip Snow Into*

*Worst Blockade of Winter*

History Tidbits: Sue Ren and Don Black

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 9 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

August 2011

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**From the Wagon Seat:** It seems like I was just writing this article complaining about the late spring we were having and now fall is fast approaching and the kids will be back in school. My how time flies when we're having fun.

Your Madison Valley History Association has accomplished quite a few things this spring and summer. Our major project was the construction of the Coss-Angle Blacksmith Shop. Tikker Jones of Wickiup Builders and his three man crew, together with the assistance of several MVHA members, erected this building in one week's time. And because of the help provided by the MVHA members and some special purchases of materials by Tikker Jones, the construction came in under budget. Then Larry Kiefer, grandson of Oscar Angle began putting the blacksmith equipment and tools back in place as they were in the original blacksmith shop. Everything was in place and working by July 23, when the MVHA hosted an open house to showcase this project. A standing room only crowd was on hand as Larry Love, grandson of Waller S. Angle, told the history of the blacksmith shop and Larry Kiefer demonstrated the operation of the equipment and tools by forging a couple of items. This facility houses a lot of history that adds to our museum site. Our next project is to complete the "Walk of Names" deck and walk that will connect the museum with the blacksmith shop.

Our monthly programs continue to be a highlight for our members that live here. In April, the membership in attendance had the opportunity to look through a portion of the "Charlie Brown" (Chuck Armitage) pictures which were donated to the museum. A great time was had by all looking through these old photos, reminiscing about by gone times and trying to identify some of the people in the pictures.

In May, at our annual business meeting, the featured speaker was Zoe Ann Stoltz who gave a slide presentation on "Montana Brands and Brand History Research." Following the presentation, the membership reelected Duane Thexton and Kevin Brenneke to a three year term on the Board of Trustees. Also, ten year membership awards were presented to Jean Armstrong, Carolyn and Robert Banks, Patsy Eckert, Victoria Gordon, Ethelyn and Gene Hanni, Craig Larson, Rosemary and Richard Lee, Darlene and Fred Rochez, Jan Smith, and Deb and Harry Townshend. I had the honor of presenting the annual Presidential Award to that individual who has unselfishly given of his time and talents, and also at his own expense, to help bring awareness of the history of the Madison Valley. Don Black was the recipient this year. Along with the certificate, Don was given a copy of Dick Pace/Gary Forney's book "It Takes All Kinds."

In June, Gary Forney was our featured speaker and he gave a presentation on his recently published book, "It Takes All Kinds." The meeting concluded with an autograph party with Gary signing the book for those who had a copy with them.

The July program was the open house showcasing the Coss-Angle Blacksmith Shop mentioned above. Also, in July, MVHA members constructed a float for the annual Fourth of July Parade. This year's theme was "Let Freedom Ring" and the float featured the Cliff Lake school house bell and several MVHA members playing the role as students and teacher in an old time classroom. The float caught the attention of the parade judges and we were awarded "First Runner Up" in the local float category.

Through the tireless efforts of MVHA member Liz Applegate, the MVHA historical cookbook, "A Collection of Old and New Favorite Family Recipes," has finally been printed. This cookbook is dedicated to the memory of Priscilla "Smitty" Overstreet and the founding members of the MVHA. The response has been great to this cookbook which also contains historical anecdotes from some of the contributors to this work. The first printing has almost completely sold out and a second printing is being made.

At the June Board meeting the following officers were elected: Otis Thompson and Larry Love (co-presidents), Duane Thexton (secretary), Neil Kent (treasurer), Don Black (program chairman), and Shirley Love (editor of the *Wagon Tongue*.) Now MVHA needs your help in volunteering to work a 3 hour shift or more at the museum as we continue to welcome guests Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Remember it takes all of us to do our part and to keep the wagons rollin'.

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the April issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.  
**Barbara McGowan (I)** 682-5780  
P.O. Box 85  
Ennis, MT 59729  
**Vivian and Jim Womack (F)** 683-5642  
208 E. Bannack  
Dillon, MT 59725  
**Nancy (Townshend) and Carl Vess (F)**  
69 Maple Ave. 508-221-6420  
Norfolk, CT. 06058.

**Membership Update** 2011 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your membership is due during July, August, September or October, you will find a membership renewal in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons.

The MVHA has been currently doing a campaign to raise funds for the Phase II of the Museum. If you made a donation of \$500 or more, your membership status has been elevated to Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Memories**

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

**Elizabeth (Dolly) McCallum Wood** passed away February 22, 2011 in Las Cruces, N. M. Dolly was born June 27, 1938 and she grew up in the North Meadow Creek area. Dolly started her education at the little country school in McAllister, where she and her sisters walked the mile to and from school. In 6th grade the schools consolidated and she continued her education in Ennis where she graduated salutatorian of her class in 1957.

**Lucy Hoag Pasley** passed away on June 8, 2011 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis at age 92. She loved the shining mountains and noticed with delight Montana's changing seasons. She reveled in its beauty and found joy in gardening, dancing, swimming, skiing, riding and entertaining friends on the ranch and later in Ennis. She will ever be remembered for her impeccable taste and elegant style. No one from the ranch was allowed to go into Ennis for any reason unless they first changed clothes.

Lucy was born December 10, 1918 in Nashville, Tennessee. She grew up in Tenafly, New Jersey, and graduated from Dwight School for Girls in Englewood, NJ. She first journeyed to the Madison Valley from New Jersey to visit a friend, Ann Wilsey Hoag, wife of Scott Hoag's brother, Lindley. She fell in love with Scott and Montana. Lucy and Scott were married in Tenafly on October 27, 1940. They returned to Ennis, where Lucy learned how to cook and can on a wood range, churn butter, cope with high altitude baking, nurse bum lambs, and the other skills of ranching life. In 1944, Scott and she sold their sheep and for the next 26 years Scott, Lucy, and their three sons, Scott, Manny, and David raised Hereford cattle.

Lucy was active in Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers, where she taught both Sunday and Bible School. She was also a member of Ennis Parent Teacher Association and its one time president. For many years she was involved with the American Red Cross, serving as Madison County Chairman and board member of Five Rivers Chapter in Bozeman. Also, one of Lucy's proudest periods was her Service to Military Families, acting as Chairman for Madison County. Additionally, she was an active member of the Madison Valley Woman's Club, MadGals. Further, she was active in planning and selecting the interior décor for the Madison Valley Manor where she spent her final months in comfort and dignity due to the graciousness and professionalism of staff.

An unexpected and sudden heart attack took Scott's life on July 15th, 1977, Lucy married Hal Pasley on October 1, 1978. They enjoyed their retirement in both Ennis and Phoenix. The two traveled extensively and enjoyed several ocean cruises. In November 2010, Hal celebrated his 100 birthday with Lucy and both their families and over 100 folks from the area in attendance.

Memory of Lucy Pasley by son Manny Hoag

Former owner of the Madisonian, local historian and rancher, **Mark Perrault**, passed away on June 25, 2011 at age 96 at Generations Assisted Living Center in Ennis. He was born in the Ruby Valley in 1915 at a time when people were still settling southwest Montana.

**John "Tim" Merica** passed away August 4, 2011 in Bozeman, Mt. He was born August 22, 1936 in Winona, Kansas and moved to Ennis after high school.

MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes)diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been re-printed in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010 , second in Jan. 2011 and third in April 2011. If you have missed the first three installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 3 issues.

DAD'S Diary submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes. The April. '11 issue left them on Nov. 30 in Salt Lake and they saw more girls in one string that night than he had ever seen before.

#### **Dec. 1st**

Went out to hunt experience, guess we are going to get it now. We expect to get dropped right in the middle of a desert, broke and without very damn good shoes on my feet. Soaked my watch today to get the two of us to Las Vegas, Nev. Close to Arizona so we are accomplishing our end. Hell of a mob in the car, all nationalities. The white men are in the minority and all bunched up one corner. Probably will be things doing before we get there. A crazy Irishman, drunker than a fool, is the chief source of amusement just now. He just now threw his hat out the window and is trying to make the "con" pay for it

These employment offices are running a regular legalized bunco game. Send a lot of poor devils out on some desert and then charge them 8 cents a mile to get back. Many a poor cuss has left his carcass on the desert trying to walk over into California. It's only about 60 miles into California but without any water on the way.

We are stopped for supper. Supper - it's all a dream, just now discovered that my last quarter was a nickel. That means that I have 15 cents and Army 10. Probably we will think it is a long walk back.

Sent a postal card to Mabel today. Want to make her think I am having a fine time.

Well, have been enjoying it so far. Went through the tabernacle today. Army walked out to see the lake. The observation car on our special was so crowded coming down from Ogden that we couldn't enjoy the scenery as much as I would like. Were cached away in a carload of lumber. Everything seems to have a humorous turn yet, but have an idea that it will wear off after our "piles" gone and a fellow gets really hungry once. Only consolation, will have a chance to practice a little physical culture. We will follow the two meal a day plan, but where will a fellow get them out in the middle of a desert. The Bible says not to worry for the morrow as the good Lord feeds his own. That sounds all right but it wouldn't fill a fellows stomach.

#### **Dec. 2**

Traveling across Nevada today. Landed in Calenta tonight. Spent our last 10 cents for a box of crackers for supper. Will commence to practice some of the theories I have been preaching for the last two years. Don't expect to get anything to eat for the next two days.

#### **Dec. 3**

Had decided to cut down eating to two meals a day for certain reasons, but concluded that a short fast of about 4 days would be about the right idea.

Landed in Las Vegas today. Broke. Army rolled a barrel of beer 50 yds. for a dime. Ditched us here and wouldn't haul us on out to the front where the work is. Walked 20 miles after 1:30 last night on nothing to eat.. Can't seem to get work anyplace. I'd like to have that employment agent where I could reach him for a few minutes.

Apparently they hiked west out of Las Vegas.

#### **Dec. 4**

We loaded some spuds for our breakfast this morning. It was the first meal we had eaten in 4 days. We certainly stowed away some grub. Still no work tonight.

#### **Dec. 5**

Hungry as the devil again this morning. Know what actual hunger is now.

Drilled all forenoon on empty stomach, struck every camp for a job and at last found work. Fine feed.

Women cooks. Worked this afternoon.

**Dec. 6** Worked and ate today.

**Dec. 7** Wed. Eat and work

**Dec. 8** Thur. Eat and work. Getting damn tired of work. Bum job. Never have any time to wash. Just run and grab what you get.

**Dec. 9** Fri. Work. Tired as the devil. Crew went on a strike yesterday, lasted 5 minutes. This whole crew seems to be working for a California stake, which is \$5.

**Dec. 10** Sat. Worked. Have a notion to quit, got it made. About 40 miles to California line. The only nice thing about this place is the climate. Hot days, cook (cool) nights.

**Sun. 11** Resting up today, and sewing up old clothes.

**Mon 12** Decide to work awhile longer. Work until noon and boss stops our board and pay so we got mad and quit. Probably was caused by my knowing too much, as usual. We start out in afternoon for other side. Make about 9 miles. Probably working on a road building crew going towards Los Angeles.

**Tue 13** Hiked all day, nothing to eat until supper.

We had \$10.25 cents when we left camp and its got to take us into Los Angeles.

**Wed 14** Drilled to within 5 miles of the crossing and trade my gloves for a ride the rest of the way. Took train out 12 miles, 8 cents a mile. Ride a box car thirty more into Goffs junction of mainline.

**Thur 15** Just commenced to realize what damn fools we are. By the time we get through with this trip will either be in a home for idiots or will know a little something. Got ditched this morning at Fenner out in the middle of a desert. No trains stopping here unless flagged. We have got \$6.10 left. Have got to commence doing something pretty soon. If this is the California you read about, I don't want much of it. Haven't seen anything but a desert so far.

**Fri 16** Traded our bed for supper last night to a woman who happened to be going out on passenger so she had it flagged. We rode the "blend" about 50 miles and then got ditched about 1:30 a.m. We "hiked" 25 miles, by the next afternoon got into Ludlow where all the trains stop to take water.

Rode the rods into Barstow a division point about 90 mi. from San Bernadino.

**Sat 17** Laying around Barstow today

**Sun 18** Are at last in the land of "fruit and flowers" and "hoboes". Landed in San Bernadino this morning. Cost us two dollars to come in so we have just \$3. left. This is certainly a pretty country, flowers blooming and oranges ripening all around us. We fully appreciate it after having been out in the desert but things will probably look different after our pile is gone if we haven't got a job by that time.

**Mon 19** Rustling for work chief amusement yesterday and today.

**Tue 20** Got no work yesterday but Army got a days work this morning which will help some. There are 75 men here to every job but may possibly get something to do if we can stay around a few days without getting run in. Just one dollar left this morning so are good for another day yet.

**Wed 21** Army finished his job this morning so we are still hunting work. Nothing doing. Every man in town knows where you can get a job. You go to the place he tells you and they say they don't want anyone. We have about decided to leave town and take to the country. Everybody is doing his Xmas shopping and it makes a fellow feel like he ought to be doing something. Brings up past recollections. What bothers me is that I can't send any -- Will try and do better next year.

We had our Xmas last night, got sporty and bought a dimes worth of candy. Wish Santa Claus would bring us a shave and a bath. Our whiskers attract quite a lot of attention, all the girls look at us.

**Thur 22** We start for the country this morning. Have walked up and down these streets enough to have walked to Los Angeles, so we thought we might as well be getting someplace while we are walking. We drill all day without finding anything. Trying to rain a little. Certainly are getting enough oranges to eat, hundreds of bushels going to waste, all a fellow has to do is to go and help yourself, so you can't starve to death. Don't know what we shall do after orange season for it has commenced to look like a white man can't get a job here, too many "greasers" who will work for nothing. No place for a working man.

**Fri 23** Almost got a job at a packing house this morning. Almost was a (as) close as we got, too. Kept drilling around all day yesterday and today.

A fellow gave us a strange proposition this morning. Offered us \$3. a cord for stove wood cut from an old orange orchard which we have to grub out. About a cord in 100 trees. He was awfully backward about offering that as we didn't have an outfit along with us. A man, to get a job in this country, has to have a tent and cooking outfit right along with him, for they never board a man. They don't consider a hired man good enough to eat at the same table with them. We studied some time on whether to take the job of wood cutting or not but finally decided that we had better as we will stand more show of getting another job if we stay around here awhile. It's a hard proposition

though as we will have to work like the devil to earn our board at \$3.00 a cord. They certainly haven't very much sympathy for a poor devil in this country. Can't blame them much either, as they are bothered to death by the regular Weary Willies and they think everybody is trying to sponge off of them. Army and I certainly can't expect to get much on our looks, there isn't a harder looking pair of "hoboes" in California then we are.

**Sat 24** Decided to take the job, so we went to the closest town "Highland" and bought an enormous supply of goods, spent all of our "dollar" for it. Baked a few hot cakes last night, the only thing, besides oranges, we've had for two days. Sharpened up a couple axes today and grubbed out a few trees. Commenced to think we have been wise for once in taking this job as it may turn out that the boss will give us something better to do. I guess he is trying us to see if we really want to work or are professional "boes".

**Sun Christmas Dec 25th** This is the first Christmas like this I ever saw, in more ways than one. In some respects I wouldn't want it repeated while in others it could not be surpassed. The weather has cleared up again which make the prospects some brighter as the boss will put us to picking oranges tomorrow which will beat grubbing trees. It's about dinner time and our dinner consists of oranges, as also did our breakfast. We are eating oranges when not working to save our enormous supply of grub, as it has got to last us a week and by that time we expect to have enough earnings to get another. Since getting up this morning, we have managed to eat two dozen oranges. Have eaten more since we have been down here that I ever saw before.

*To be continued in October 2011*

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Brooks Dehoney, MVHA member and Madison Valley native living in Casper, Wy. submitted this story.

**Born and Raised in Ennis** by Brooks DeHony  
(editorial note: the punctuation and spelling are left exactly as Brooks DeHony wrote this story)

First of all my father M. B. DeHony better known as Brooks came to Ennis along with his brother Charlie and my uncle Otto Coss in the year of 1898.

Otto started the blacksmith shop in Ennis. He later sold it to Waller and Oscar Angle. I don't know the date.

My father and uncle Charlie worked on ranches in the Madison Valley and trapped coyotes for a living. My uncle Charlie passed away at an early age.

I was born in Ennis in the spring of 1927. As a young lad I raised rabbits. I sold dressed rabbits for 30¢ each. I thought that was a lot of money. I helped my Dad who trapped coyotes west of Ennis. He would buy an old Parrot mouth sheep for \$1.00 from Shorty Beacock. I would drag it to the spot where he would use the carcass for bait. He would give me 25¢ for the labor (Saturday & Sunday.) I would buy a show ticket for 15¢ and a milk shake for 10¢. I was happy to get something for labor. Bob Gaun (editor's note: he means Bob Gohn) would come from Virginia City every week to show movie pictures. The theater was the old woodman hall where the Ecomy Store was.

*continued on page 5*

All of us kids would lay on the floor and watch the movie. All the older people would sit on chairs.

Earl & Pearl Love had 2 sons and two daughters. I grew up with Jr. Love. Roy was a little bit younger. Earl had a small ranch north of Ennis where I spent most of the time with Junior. The ranch was sold to Goggins. I don't know the date. Junior and I grew up together. We liked to hunt, fish the Madison, and train horses.

When we were in the 7th & 8th grades, we would plow gardens around town with horses. We would plow, harrow, and level the garden for \$1.50. We really thought we were making money.

Jr. & I worked for Grant Cline at the Stoney Acres Ranch (the Tom Call ranch.) We got out of school to help lamb 10,000 sheep from Feb. through May. It was during World War #2. There wasn't enough men in the valley to help the ranchers. Ed Olson the principal of Ennis schools would let Jr. Love and myself out of school to help lamb sheep. This was in our first three years in high school. We would study at night in a tent and go to Ennis for our six week tests so we could receive our diplomas.

In the summer Jr. would help his father on the ranch north of Ennis. I would stay at the stoney Acres and help with sheep and put up the hay crop. In the fall I would go to Ennis and help harvest the grain in the valley. Mr. Jeffers let me us his team of horses and the bundle wagon. My job was to go to the field, stack bundles on the hay rack, and drive to the thasher (*ed note: he means thresher*), pitch the bundles in the thrasher. Shorty Beacock owned the thrasher. He would pull it with an old John Deer tracter to the ranches in the Madison Valley.

I remember helping John Rients put up his crops when Elso was a small boy. I don't suppose Elso would remember that.

Grant Cline owner of the Call ranch bought yearling steers from Mexico for \$24.00 a head. He would keep them two years then take them to market when they put on a lot of weight. The steers were railed by train to Manhattan. They were hauled to Ed Maynard's ranch east of the Madison Lake for the winter. George Hungerford was the foreman for Grant Cline. He had Jr. Love and myself to trail the 490 head of long horn steers to Alder for pasture. We started with them early one morning. We made it to the Madison river bridge okay, but from there it was quite a mess. They didn't want to cross the river bridge so we borrowed Ed Olsons milk cows to coax them through town. They got to milling in a tight knot in front of Porter Nelsons garage. Some steers got inside the garage. What a mess that was. It was just Jr. Love and myself driving these steers. We finally got to the top of the Virginia City hill from there it ws a race to the bottom. We weren't allowed to go through Virginia City so we turned them at the bottom and went around Virginia City. We arrived to our destinaton late in the afternoon. The next day the steers had to dehorned. What a pile of hors from 490 head of long horns.

The next spring they were trailed to the Stoney Acres Ranch. About a month later Tex Smith and I trailed them to the Cliff Lake area. From there they were fattened up and shipped to market. Pat Paterson herded them in the summer. *To be continued in October 2011 Issue 4.*

### **MVHA Highway cleaning project**

The highway department has erected the signs designating MVHA as the organization responsible for collecting the litter on Montana Highway 287 from mm 3 to mm 5. We had our first work day on August 2 and seven members collected the trash from mm 4 to mm 5. The next cleanup day from mm 4 to mm 3 is Friday, August 19, at 9 am. If you are available, show up at the museum to get your trash bag, vest, and gloves.

### **MVHA Museum Open for the Season**

The MVHA museum opened over Memorial Day weekend and then on June 14 for the season and plan to stay open until mid September or in to October depending on tourists. Everyone got such a late start at vacationing in Montana this year so we will have to see how long vacationers will continue visiting the Madison Valley this fall. Kevin Brenneke has done a great job of scheduling so make her job easier by calling her at 682-3742 or cell 404-660-0018. Bonnie Matzick also filled in for a few weeks to help out with scheduling so thank you to Kevin and Bonnie for all their work. And thank you to all the volunteers who have signed up or said yes when called.

### **MVHA Cookbook Now Available**

Liz Applegate has produced a great historical cookbook and it is now available for purchase. See the insert in this copy of the Wagon Tongue for purchase information. Don't miss out on getting your very own copy of this first edition of this Madison Valley History cookbook. Thanks to Liz for spearheading this project and getting it off the ground and for all of you folks for contributing recipes and historical accounts of family members who made each recipe so very special.

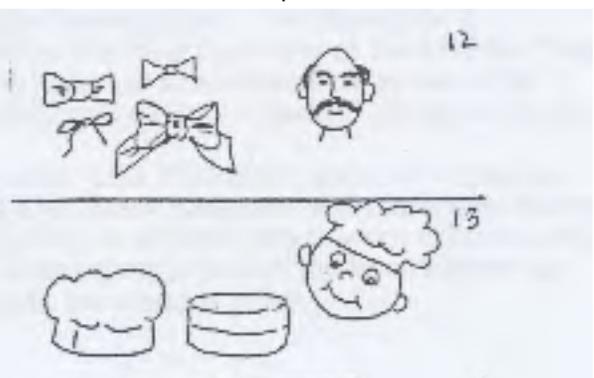
### **MVHA Programs**

Don Black, former Jeffers native, resident of Great Falls and MVHA board member has consented to be the program chair. See Looking Ahead on the next page for upcoming programs. But Don needs your help. If you have a program idea, a speaker idea, a field trip idea, a subject on which you would like to learn some more history or more information, just contact Don or any board member and they will see what they can do.

Don also proves that you do not have to reside in the Madison Valley to be helpful to the organization. You may help out from afar.

**History Tidbit** The Meadow Creek Welfare Club struggled for funds in the 1960's. Bingo for cash was illegal then and it's members to old to serve dinners. Helen Schabarker

**Montana Trivia** Answer to April 2011 #11 Buffalo



## For Your Reading Pleasure

### **Blind Your Ponies** by Stanley Gordon West

This book has been selected as the One Book Montana book for 2011 by the Humanities Montana. One Book Montana would like everyone in the state of Montana to read, talk about, attend book discussions, and share this book during 2011. Even if you do not live in Montana, plan to read this book!!

This story takes place in Willow Creek, Montana and surrounding area. All the characters are fictitious but all the events really do take place. It is a tender story of love, courage, grit and basketball in a small town.

## Looking Ahead

**Sept. 15, 2011 4:00 pm** First Madison Valley Bank  
“A Conversation With the Founding Father’s Descen-  
dents” featuring Jane Rybus and Shirley Gustafson

**Oct. 20, 2011** Program to be announced.

**Nov. 17, 2011 4:00pm** First Madison Valley Bank  
“Grizzlies and History” Steve Primm’

**Dec 15, 2011** MVHA Christmas Program and Party  
Trinity Episcopal Church 4:00pm

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

Co-President: Otis Thompson

Co-President: Larry Love

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: John White

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April Museum MVHA Office May to Sept.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2011.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes*  
*Dec 1 to Dec. 25, 1904*

*Madisonian* Obituaries

Brooks DeHoney *Born and Raised in Ennis*

Manny Hoag *Memory of Lucy Pasley*

History Tidbits: Helen Schabarker by way of Don Black

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

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provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 9 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

October 2011

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**From the Wagon Seat** It looks like fall here. The leaves are turning yellow, the birds are flocking up and we have had our first blast of cold weather with snow in the mountains.

The MVHA held its last field trip for the season in August. We visited the reclamation site of the upper O'Dell wetlands area on the Granger Ranches. Jeff Lazlo of the Granger Ranches was host. He explained and showed pictures of the restoration of the O'Dell Creek wetlands. This area is south of Ennis about 7 miles below the Varney cut-off. It is an effort of private and public funds to restore the O'Dell headwaters to its original habitat before the area was drained in the '50's. Jeff related that there are now more species of birds, flowers, more willows and more water in O'Dell Creek. We learned that the white house located under the hill was used for the living quarters for the haying crews that were haying the Madison River bottom which was turned from wetlands to hay fields in the 1950's. The MVHA is seeking more information on the history of that area such as homesteaders and early residents. If anyone has any information, let the MVHA know.

The MVHA museum closed for the season on Sept. 15. We had a good summer with the opening of the Coss/Angle Forge Building. But we were down in numbers of visitors this year. This was probably due to our reduced hours going to 1:00pm to 4:00pm instead of all day. We have also heard that a lot of museums saw their numbers drop this summer too. A big thank you to all of you who took time to host the museum. We also need to thank the schedulers lead by Kevin Brenneke with Bonnie Matzick and Shirley Love helping out.

In looking ahead, the MVHA will sell cookbooks at the Hunter's Feed and we will again have a booth at the Madison Valley Woman Club Holiday Bazaar. Plan on signing up to help.

Our program for September was a real crowd pleaser. It was probably our biggest attended program with about 70 in attendance. Special thanks to Don Black who presented "A Conversation with the Founding Father's Descendants" featuring Jane Rybus and Shirley Gustafson. In a relaxed setting, the two living pioneers of founding families shared their experiences in growing up in the valley. Questions were asked of them from the audience to the delight of everyone. Thanks, Jane and Shirley.

Our programs continued this month with the history of sports in the valley. Board members and other MVHA members will give historical perspective to baseball, football, bowling, skiing and any other sport in the valley. November's program will be a program about Grizzlies. December will feature our annual Christmas potluck with members asked to bring their oldest and most favorite Christmas cards.

The MVHA board would like to thank everyone for helping out this year. Their ideas, hours working at the museum, working on projects and financial support help preserve the colorful and important history of the Madison Valley. It takes each and everyone of us to do a part in some small way to keep the wagons rolling. Your co-wagon master, Larry Love

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**History Tidbit: Sterling** was once a thriving mining town--more than five hundred people lived there in the 1860s. There were four quartz mills made of square stones cemented together with a mixture of lime and horsehair; the remains of one are still standing. The town was three miles west of Norris on Hot Spring Creek. The post office opened in 1867 with Andrew Hill as postmaster.

"The culmination of every miner's dream was to locate a mine comparable to the Monitor on Richmond Flats. Someone had grubstaked two miners to drive a tunnel and they had worked all winter unknowingly along the side of this rich vein. Then one day, while they were outside in the sunshine eating their lunch, a cave-in occurred, exposing the vein...It was four feet in width and six inches of wire gold in the center. The ore assayed at \$6,000 a ton after all specimens were picked out and at the old price of \$19 an ounce. A sample of the ore sent to the World's Fair in San Francisco in 1859 received first prize. It took four years to mine this body of ore. My dad hauled seven tons of ore a trip to Norris and a ton and a half of coal back to the mine. Old Rock and Him were the lead horses of his six horse team. Many a cold and windy day, Dad would tie the reins to the dash board and get down out of the wind. The horses knew just where to go" (Cecil M. Reel, Madison Valley Trails and Trials) By 1872 most of the ore had been mined and people had left Sterling. W. R. Reel, a Montana miner, bought the land and claims including the town site where he built his ranch house. The land is now in hay and pasture. The post office closed in 1883.

Names on the Face of Montana The Story of Montana's Place Names by Roberta Carkeek Cheney page 243-244

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the August issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.

**David and Marti Hoag** (F) 682-3875

P.O. Box 151

McAllister, MT 59740

**Jack and Kathryn Northway** (F) 682-4747

P.O. Box 65

Ennis, MT 59729

**Dorothy Dougherty** (I) 682-4461

10 Comleyville Rd.

Ennis, MT 59729

**Membership Update** 2011 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your membership is due during Oct. Nov, Dec. or Jan. you will find a membership renewal in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons.

The MVHA has been currently doing a campaign to raise funds for the Phase II of the Museum. If you made a donation of \$500 or more, your membership status has been elevated to Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

### Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

**Jinny R.Beardsley Combs**, age 81, wife of MVHA

member, Peter Combs, passed away Aug. 8, 2011 at her home on the Diamond J Ranch up Jack Creek. She was born May 3, 1930 in Los Angeles, CA. She married Peter Combs on Oct. 28, 1950 and in 1960 she and Peter moved to Ennis and bought the Diamond J Guest Ranch which became a passion for Jinny to welcome guests from all over the world. *Madisonian, Aug 18, 2011*

**Frances C. Leding Hubner**, age 73, passed away Aug. 8, 2011. She was born in Raton, N. M. on Sept 4, 1937. She married Steve Hubner on May 7, 1960. She began her working career as a waitress, later sold clothing at the Poole Hall in Ennis and then became a successful insurance agent for many years. *Madisonian Aug. 18, 2011*

**Kathryn E. Martin Clare**, age 85, passed away Aug. 12, 2011 in Butte, MT. Kathryn was born to Claude and Ruth Martin on July 13, 1926 in Jeffers, MT. She is the grand daughter of M.A. and Lena Kathryn Switzer. Her happy childhood revolved around her grandfather's and father's general store and post office, Switzer and Martin, in Jeffers,

In 2010, Kathryn contacted the MVHA and offered to donate a quilt made by her great grandmother, Catherine Shannon Gilmer who was married to Campbell Gilmer. Catherine put the quilt together when her husband went for a time to the California gold fields. In 1880 the family traveled to Montana and eventually took up a homestead 3 miles south of Jeffers.

Don Black, MVHA historian, was able to meet Kathryn this past year and did an oral interview with her. He was also able to attend her funeral in Helena and when remembrances were shared during the service, a family member said that one of the special highlights of Kathryn's life was visiting the MVHA museum this past summer and seeing her quilt on display and seeing the wonderful saving of history that the MVHA is doing. Plan to stop by the museum next summer and see this special piece of history donated by this very special lady. Info provided by Don Black and Kathryn Clare **James Allen Walker**, age 72, passed away at his home on August 20, 2011. He was born May 31, 1939 to Harry S. and Alma (Hinsen) Walker in Bozeman, Mt. He worked for the Montana Highway department for 29 years In 1977 he was transferred to Ennis and was the maintenance supervisor until his retirement in 1993. *Madisonian August 25, 2011*

**Marcele Ann Scully Bohleen** of Worland, Wyo passed away Sept. 4, 2011. She was born on Feb 5, 1949 in Dillon to John and Madalyn (McDonnell) Scully and is sister to MVHA member, John Scully. She graduated from Ennis High School in 1966 and from MSU. She worked for the Ward Ranch in Paradise Valley where she met her husband, Gene. They lived in Billings and then Worland. She worked in the insurance industry up to her death.

**John Branger IV** passed away on Sept. 11, 2011. He was born Nov. 21, 1949 to John P. Branger and Elizabeth Jean O'Shea. He grew up on the family ranch on the



commercial wealth had evolved in the Hot Spring Mining District. This community, Sterling, was situated about three miles west of today's Norris--the district's geographic epicenter. The only existing photograph, taken probably in March or April of 1866, catches the town in a very early stage of development. Perhaps a dozen structures can be identified in the vicinity of the townsite. Later that year, a member of a wagon train passing through provided a rough estimate of thirty structures, a considerably larger number than he has seen in passing through the village of Bozeman.<sup>1</sup> A year later, in November 1867, an employee of the Midas Mining Company, situated up Hot Spring Creek at Midasburg, the company's camp just west of Sterling, noted that "[a] large number of buildings of every size and shape, for store houses and residences, are being erected in every direction. <sup>2</sup> Then, in October 1868, the territorial surveyor, John L. Corbett, reported that the community was composed of "between 40 and 50 houses and stores," excluding quartz mills.<sup>3</sup> That the town was the direct offspring of the decision of the Herschel Mining Company of Virginia City, the Clark & Upson Mining Company of Hartford, Connecticut, and the New York and Montana Mining and Discovery Company of New York City, New York, to locate at that site is indisputable.

The actual organization of Sterling into streets and lots was largely the work of an irascible, fiftyish Kentucky-born Missourian named Jordan Warren Hyde--known locally as the "old man"--who had been active in the Hot Spring area since the summer of 1864, when gold was first discovered in the district.<sup>4</sup> Hyde possessed a vital chunk of Hot Spring real estate. This quarter section lay astride the road where it crossed Hot Spring Creek below the Clark & Upson mill, the ruins of which are still evident today. One-quarter of a mile wide, Hyde's property straddled the creek easterly for one mile, and encompassed the entirety of what would develop into the "city" of Sterling. <sup>5</sup>

Although the exact origin of the name, Sterling, is unknown speculation suggests two possibilities. Etymologically, Sterling was an appropriate name for a camp situated in a district held in high esteem for the excellent values of its gold-bearing ores. And by such reasoning is that name understood today. But there is another feasibility. Hot Spring District was inhabited by a substantial number of southerners. A secessionist element, shepherded by a Kentucky-born Missourian, the Rev. Learner Stateler, resided in nearby Norwegian Gulch. Jordan Hyde, upon whose land Sterling was situated, was of similar background--born in Kentucky and raised in Missouri. Henry A. Ward, superintendent of the Midas Mining Company of Rochester, New York, had described his company's work force as two-thirds men and women of southern birth. On occasion Ward employed the terms "Missourians" and Price's army men" to lament the disproportion of southerners to northerners under his employ.<sup>6</sup>

Consequently, that Sterling could have been named after the Confederate General Sterling Price cannot be taken lightly. Former Governor of Missouri, Sterling Price had raised a guerilla force in 1861 and joined the Confederate army.

When his force was finally cornered and shattered in the battle of Mine Creek, Kansas, in December 1864, large

numbers of his men had fled west to escape capture. Just how many did so is in question, but that Ward and others were convinced of their presence and influence in Montana is indisputable.

Nathaniel P. Langford, collector of federal taxes, argued that in the early day "Four-fifths" of Montana's residents were openly declared Secessionists," and that Montana was "more disloyal as a whole, than Tennessee or Kentucky ever was."<sup>7</sup> Langford exaggerated, but, as Clark Spence, author of a noted history of Montana, observed, "secesh" opinions were not myth, but were strong enough to color the political life of the territory's early years.<sup>8</sup> It is a fact that secessionists in Virginia City, holding a substantial voting majority during the 1860's, had initially named their community "Varina" in honor of Jefferson Davis's wife, only to have the camp renamed "Virginia City" by northerners appointed to public office through the auspices of the victorious Republican national administration. In short, Sterling, like Confederate Gulch, and other Montana name-places, may have reflected southern Civil War influence.

In any case, Jordan Hyde, a Missourian, laid out two streets. Main Street ran east and west, roughly paralleling Hot Spring Creek, with its western end pointing straight toward Hot Spring Creek canyon and the Clark & Upson, and New York & Montana Mining & Discovery Company mill sites. Hill Street bisected Main Street at right angles, north and south. It might of employed the existing bed of the road that ran from Virginia City through Meadow Creek to the Norwegian diggings. And to carry the Confederate name speculation further, this principal thoroughfare, while proceeding up a hill north of the townsite, might have been named, not for topographical reasons, but for the distinguished Southern Generals Ambrose Powell Hill of Virginia, or Daniel Hill of North Carolina.

Most of Sterling's businesses were situated on Main Street. This can be determined by examining descriptive Grantor and Grantee records in the Madison County Clerk and Recorder's office. For example, when John Hyde sold a lot to Andrew A. Hall and Don O. Spaulding in December, 1866, it was described as being the lot upon which was situated the Michigan Store--obviously named for the state in which Hall and Spaulding, the new owners, had formerly resided. This lot was eighteen feet wide, sixty feet deep. It fronted on the north side of Main Street and was bounded on the east and north by a lot owned by William R. Reel and John Cullimore; on the west by another lot owned by Hyde. Records of Hyde's sales of lots to Daniel F. Percival & Company are equally instructive. In October 1866, Percival purchased lot No. 1, situated on the northeast block on Hill Street, facing thirty feet in front and running back seventy feet to its rear. This lot would have been the first lot north from the corner or Main and Hill. In April 1867, Percival purchased the corner lot itself, forty feet wide, fronting on Main Street. These three purchases indicate that Percival was owner of some of Sterling's prime commercial real estate. In such a manner a crude idea of what a town looked like can be constructed.<sup>9</sup>

Business license receipts, a number of which have survived for Sterling, offer additional evidence of the mining camp's commercial character. Those for 1867 document two boarding houses,

(Continued on page 5)

two hotels, four mercantiles, five saloons, two butcher shops, and three livery or feed stables. Licenses were also issued to a hatter, to a billiard hall owner, and to one of the town's merchants for a retail liquor business.<sup>10</sup> No receipts exist for blacksmith shops, but Henry Ward reported in February of 1867 that no less than five had opened for business in Sterling in the preceding twelve months.<sup>11</sup> Inasmuch as the value of a mining district could be determined in part by the number of blacksmiths at work in it, the presence of as many as five in Sterling mark the community as one of some energy. In all, at the height of its existence, Sterling possessed as many as twenty-four separate business establishments, some of which, undoubtedly were combined under the same roof. It was an active commercial community, although it lacked a bank and a newspaper. In addition to the facilities in Sterling, the mining companies lying at its western edge had their own licensed boarding houses, stables and blacksmith shops. Licenses were mandated by law for every miner, merchant, and businessman (including lawyers and brokers) and were good for 6 months. The standard licensing fee for a miner was ten dollars, but those for businesses varied, apparently according to size of structure and volume of trade. That Sterling's businesses were small in comparison to those in Virginia City and Nevada City is apparent.

Whereas a saloon in Nevada City was assessed fifty dollars, John H. McCabe's saloon in Sterling was assessed fifteen. The license for Fish & Toinbee's mercantile in Sterling cost twenty dollars, while Julian M. Knight paid forty-five for his in Virginia City.<sup>12</sup>

These records are helpful in other ways; the licenses that Percival took out indicate that the company was in the boarding, mercantile, and retail liquor businesses; thus Percival's lots on Main and Hill probably contained these type of businesses.

Countywide resistance to paying license fees appears to have been large; in Virginia City many residents neglected to file for licenses. Failure to do so earned them a day in court and fines as high as \$500.<sup>13</sup> There is no record of delinquency for Sterling, but that virtually no Hot Spring miners took out licenses suggests they took the requirement lightly. No doubt Sterling's distance from Virginia City played into the hands of scofflaws. Sterling's population was never permanent enough to take the organization of city and county governance very seriously.

Editor's note. The MVHA had a field trip to Sterling a few years ago. Maybe another field trip to the area would be interesting.

#### Endnotes

1. Benjamin Dailey Diary, 1866, entry of Sep. 7, 1866, Special Collection 2074, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, Montana Hereafter cited as MHSA.
2. This letter, dated Nov. 4, 1867, was printed in the Montana Post Tri-Weekly, undated, Henry A. Ward Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Rush Rhees Library, Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. Hereafter cited as WP (Ward Papers)
- 3."Exterior Boundries of Townships One-two-Three-Four-Five South Range One West of the Principal Meridian

in the Territory of Montana." Field Notes, entry of Oct. 10, 1868, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana.

4. Hyde appears on the October 1864 Willow Creek Poll List. See Poll Lists for the Montana Territorial Election of 1864, Records of the Montana Territory, Secretary, 1864, Record Series 160, MHSA

5. Record Book C, p.255, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Madison County Courthouse, Virginia City, Montana. Hereafter cited as MCC.

6. Ward to George Mumford, Sept. 6, 1867, WP

7. Quoted in Clark C, Spence, *Montana: A Centennial History* (New York and Nashville, 1978), 73

8. *Ibid*

9. Q/6, L/589, P/413,R/29,MCC

10. State of Montana, Business License Receipts, etc., Collection No 72, University of Montana Archives, Mansfield Library, Missoula, Montana Hereafter cited as UMA

11. Ward to Mumford, Feb. 20, 1867, WP

12. Business license Receipts, UMA

13. *Montana Post*, May 11, 1867

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### **2011 Season Museum Update**

The 2011 museum season is pretty much over. It was a good season with the opening of the Coss/Angle Forge Building. We still do open for folks who call during the off season so if you have guests, friends, relatives, school classes, or anyone who would like to visit the museum, just call Larry Love or Otis Thompson.

329 guests signed the guest book for 2011. This is down from 2010 but we changed our hours per day from 6 hours to 3 hours so missed a few that way. After visiting with other museums, we learned that attendance is down in a lot of other places so maybe we did not do too badly.

Our guest book register is only as good as the folks who are willing to sign or volunteers who invite them to sign. So total numbers are not an exact science. And sometimes a family head will sign for the family with only one entry and actually any number from two to five or six or more could have visited.

Montana led the way with most registered visitors with 163 guests and 83 of those were from somewhere in the Madison Valley. Also recording guests were California(25) Washington(16) Idaho(13) Utah (11) Oregon(9) Texas(7) Mississippi(6) North Carolina(6) and Arizona, Connecticut, and Georgia with 5 each. Any other state had 4 or less and 22 states did not record a visitor. 20 folks signed in with no state or area listed. Germany had 5 guests and Romania and Ireland had 1 each. So folks did come from far and near to visit our museum and learn our valley history.

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MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes)diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010 , second in Jan. 2011, third in April 2011 and fourth in August 2011. If you have missed the first four installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 4 issues.

DAD'S Diary submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes. The August 2011 issue left them ( continued on page 6)

**Dad's Diary** (Continued from page 5)

on Christmas Day, Dec 1904 after eating two dozen oranges.

**Monday Dec. 26**

Clark put Army to cultivating orange trees this morning. Evidently doesn't like the appearance of "Yours Truly".

**Tue. Dec. 27**

Went to picking oranges this morning. Boss told us to try and get out 40 bxs apiece and he would be satisfied as we were picking colors. We got about 25 apiece, and expected our time, but didn't get it. We are living on hot cakes 3 times a day and it will take some scheming to make our supply of grub last until we can get another as we have determined not to ask the boss for any money until Sat.

This is a hell of a country for a hired man, he isn't considered as good as the average people. They never board him and if he gets to sleep with the horses he may consider himself lucky. The man we are working for is a little better than the average though.

**Wed. 28**

Still picking, improving a little. Grub all gone. Had almost decided to humble our pride and ask Clark for our money, but it wasn't necessary as he came around and gave us a V without asking. Had evidently been seeing more than he let on.

**Thur. 29**

Picked oranges all day. Spent another dollar for grub, cheap living.

**Fri. 30**

Improving every day in orange picking, but still couldn't make much picking by the box. Have come to the conclusion that I aint worth a damn can't seem to do anything well. Might possible shovel manure but some way or another I don't like that. This bumming around has got to be stopped too, as I would soon get so a week in one place would be all I should want to stay. Can't see any other way of getting around to where I want to go this summer, but bumming, but I shall have plenty by then.

The boss told me tonight that I could get a steady job teaming of a neighbor, so think he intends to keep Army on the ranch and send me on the "hike" or in other words make a tramp out of me. He may help me get a job though as he says a fellow wants me to drive team tomorrow.

**Sat. 31**

Rained all forenoon so didn't try my new job. Army has been hauling oranges.

**Jan 1, 1904**

*R. Hughes' Note: 1904 has been written for the date of January 1st. This is obviously a mistake. January 1st, 1904, was on a Friday, Jan 1st, 1905, was Sunday.*

Well the New Year came in without any great demonstration on my part. Doesn't seem to make any difference whether I am broke or not. The boss came through with another V last night so we went to town and bought ourselves a new outfit.

**Monday Jan 2nd**

Got promoted this morning. Boss put me to driving team, beats picking oranges. He evidently thinks he is

running quite a risk trusting a team to me. Blamed old skates can't hardly navigate. He should see the one we've got up in Idaho if he thinks we can't manage his.

**Tues. Jan 3**

Still teaming, good job.

**Wed. Jan 4**

**Thur. Jan 5**

**Fri. Jan 6**

**Sat. Jan 7**

**Sun. 8th**

Boss dig up an X last night. Went to San Bernardino, got some more grub and Army got his whiskers trimmed. Looks like a starved coyote with them off. Have been letting my mustache grow, at present can count 18 hairs, all colors, but white is the prevailing color.

Can't see why I don't hear from Bill, has been two weeks since I wrote him. Wrote to Mabel last Sun. but don't hardly expect an answer; have a hunch she is too busy running that damned automobile. Well, it can't be helped, I guess, and I have no right to kick as the present state of affairs was brought on by the all prevailing wisdom of the "Hon. T. S. himself. Things have begun to look a little better though, the boss has evidently commenced to think we mean business for he is treating us better all the time. Says he can keep one of us all the time and has applied for a job for the other.

**Mon. Jan. 9**

Raining when we got up this morning. Clark had nothing for us to do, so to accomodate Buzan, the only white man I've seen in this country, we went to help him scatter lime for (?) (*not legible*) As a consequence, burned our legs and it looks as if I shall be laid up for a week. Buzan doing all he can for us. Fine fellow, has a heart in him as big as a mule. He thinks it was his fault and our burns hurt him worse than they do us.

**Tues. 10**

Still raining. Nothing doing except the burning of my leg which is continually busy. Whole front eaten off. Army is improving fast.

**Wed 11**

Raining yet but trying to clear up. Trying to make up for lost time as it hadn't rained for 10 months before we came here.

Got a letter from Ed today. All kinds of surprising news. Surely did enjoy reading it.

**Thur. 12**

Army is working today but I cannot. Hope I can work tomorrow but don't know how leg will be by then.

**Fri. 13**

Clark got two new horses today. They are what are called broncos down here. One is 15 years old and the other about 12. Have been working them this afternoon learned lots of things didn't know before about breaking horses. The boss wouldn't trust them to me at first so he hitched them to a cultivator and drives them around a foot afraid to get on the seat, and as horses are both balky, and want to go fast,

**Dad's Diary** (Continued from pg 6)

he can't keep up, there by stopping them which causes them to balk again. I advise him to get on the seat and let them go but my advice is not taken. Finally lets me have the team and I cultivate all afternoon without any catastrophe.

**Sat. 14**

Still cultivating. Leg is pretty sore and when an orange hits it, there is probably some eloquent language floating around.

Boss had to drive my team awhile again this morning

**Sun. 15**

Stay at home today and build a bunk.

**Mon. 16**

Got a letter from Mabel. Helps some. Worked half a day.

**Tues. 17**

Commenced plowing this afternoon. Boss drove my team first few rounds for me. Hasn't much confidence in my horsemanship. Would like to see him handle Red.

**Wed. 18**

Plowing today. My leg doesn't seem to improve much with walking.

**Thur. 19**

Plowing. Leg getting worse.

**Fri. 20**

Boss put me to cultivating. Easier on my game leg. Heard from Geo. Laurence today. No encouragement. Was very much surprised to receive a letter from Dad. Can't imagine what has come over him unless he is trying to get me back into the straight and narrow path. Evidently thinks I am pretty far gone. He could think it as hard as he could and then he would not be able to realize how worthless I am.

Geo. Laurence was the husband of John Wesley's older sister, Tom's aunt

*Note: Booklet 1 ends here and booklet 2 continues Nothing was entered from Jan 20th until Sunday. March 19th. Apparently they worked for Mr. Clark for that time.*

**March 19 Sun**

Left Clarks with \$69 between us. Intend to railroad out of Berdoo. Rainy and disagreeable, watchful police and "brakey" wears big boots. Lose our nerve and buy tickets to the Needles, \$20 all shot to \_\_\_\_\_.

**March 20, Mon.**

Traveled all night through desert. Desert all the time, nothing green in spite of all the rain. Am sitting on the banks of the silvery Colorado at Topock. Can't seem to feel the romance of the situation as the author of the "Silvery Colorado" did. He was blind or crazy or he would have seen that the silvery Colorado is muddier than the Missouri. Hell of a place for a river. Desert all sides and not a tree big enough to tie a cayuse to.

**Tues. March 21**

Arrived in Kingman this morning. Laid around Topock last night, trying to get out. Got on blind but was persuaded to get off again. Have bum eye as a conse-

quence, engineer turned steam vent on us. Kingman pretty good place, lots of good mines and at the edge of the stock country. Prospects look pretty good from here. Could get work here in mines and lots of teaming, big 18 and 20 horse teams.

**Wed, March 22**

In Hackberry today, cowpuncher supply (?) Came close to getting a job riding.

Sheriff corraled an Indian here who had chopped his bro head off for fun. Good sport, I guess.

**Thur March 23**

In Siligman today, Nothing doing. Too early for riding. Old (?) entertains us. (To be continued January 2012)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Marion Morton visited Ennis for the McAllister Reunion this past summer. She now lives in Bothell, WA. When she first joined the MVHA a couple of years ago. She gave me this story about herself. I have had it tucked away with my WT files waiting for a space for it to fit so here goes, Marion.

Marion was born in Ennis, Montana. Flying has always been a passion of hers and she was a flight attendant and later a pilot, for 30 years. Her first husband, Tom, was a Pan Am pilot and navigator on a Boeing Strato-cruiser and they were based in Rio de Janero. He lost his life in the Brazilian Rain forest in 1952. Marion later married a doctor who shared her love of flying, and the two always had their own plane, trading older models in for a faster, newer one. They flew often, going south in the wintertime or cross-country when ever they chose. Marion says, "It was a great life".

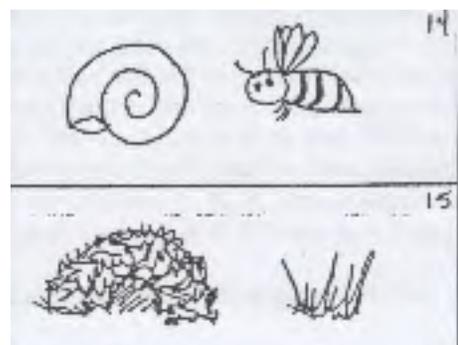
Professionally, Marion said she enjoyed her time flying for Pan Am in the early 1950's from Seattle to Alaska the most. Their destinations in Alaska were Ketchikan, Juneau, Fairbanks and Nome. They also flew to Whitehorse, Canada. In her travels, she saw the migration of Caribou, the northern lights, the many totem poles of Ketchikan, glaciers, waterfalls, and the volcanoes of the Aleutian Islands.

She had many adventures in her time in the air: being thrown to the ceiling of a galley during turbulence, struggling with motion sickness before drugs like Drama-mine were on the market, parachuting, and making an emergency landing on Lake Sammanish with her terrified 10 year old daughter, Karen.

+++++

**Montana TriviaAnswers** to Aug. 2011

#12 Bozeman #13 Baker



**Looking Ahead**

**Nov. 17, 2011** 4:00 pm First Madison Valley Bank  
“Grizzlies and History” Steve Primm

**Nov. 26, 2011** Madison Valley Woman’s Club  
Holiday Bazaar

**Dec 15, 2011** MVHA Christmas Program and Party  
Trinity Episcopal Church 4:00 pm. Bring your oldest  
and most favorite old Christmas Card

**Jan. 19, 2012** 4:00 pm First Madison Valley Bank  
Program TBA

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**MVHA Cookbook**

It is not to late to get a copy of the MVHA historical  
cookbook. It will be available at the MVHA booth at  
the Hunter’s Feed on Main Street Ennis on October 21.

Also at the MVHA booth at the Madison Valley  
Woman’s Club Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 26.

You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping  
and handling to MVHA, P. O. Box 474, Ennis, MT  
59729.

This book will make a great Christmas gift and great for  
a Grandmother, Grandfather, mother or father and  
maybe even for one of the kids.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

Co-President: Otis Thompson

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Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each  
month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and  
program.

Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each  
month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct.  
to April Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue  
will be January 2012.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas  
S. Hughes Dec. 25, 1904-Mar. 23, 1905*

*Madisonian* Obituaries

Kathryn Martin Clare Don Black

Brooks DeHoney *Born and Raised in  
Ennis*

*Sterling* Part 1 Dr Jeff Safford

History Tidbits: *Sterling* page 243-244

Names on the Face of Montana by

Roberta Carkeek Cheney

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# The Wagon Tongue

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website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)

January 2012

**From the Wagon Seat:** The Board of Trustees of the Madison Valley History Association (MVHA) wishes to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy and prosperous new year. This past year has been an exciting one for the MVHA. Our major accomplishment was the construction of the Coss-Angle Blacksmith Shop and the open house held on July 23 to dedicate this new building. We hope to use this facility this coming summer to host some local blacksmiths and have them demonstrate their talents. Another accomplishment, through the special efforts of Liz Applegate, was the publishing of our historical cookbook, "A Collection of Old and New Favorite Family Recipes." Interest in this publication has been great and we are now in the third printing of this book.

Our monthly programs are still popular with our membership. Don Black has been doing a wonderful job as the program chairman. Our October program featured many of our members relating stories about the early sports programs in Madison Valley with centurion Hal Pasley telling of many of the early exploits of the Ennis teams. In November, Steve Primm, field director of People and Carnivores Co., presented a talk about the history of the grizzly bear in the Madison Valley and some of the encounters people have had with this critter. In December, the MVHA held its annual Christmas potluck dinner at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers. For January, Don has persuaded yours truly to relate the history of the Thompson family, where they came from and how they happened to settle in the Madison Valley. In February, Don has planned a presentation on World War II veterans from the Madison Valley. On March 17, the MVHA will once again sponsor the William Ennis Irish Stew Dinner, in honor of Ennis' founding father, William Ennis. The April issue of *The Wagon Tongue* will describe the programs we are planning for the summer.

Speaking of programs, the MVHA has recorded most of the presentations over the past several years either on a CD (sound only) or a DVD (both sound and video). If there is a program of which you would like a copy, it can be purchased from the MVHA for \$5.00 (plus \$2.00 shipping and handling if we have to mail it to you.) MVHA is putting together a list of all the programs we have on disk (along with other items) for sale and this list will appear in a future issue of the *The Wagon Tongue*.

The MVHA has been contacted by the producer of "Mysteries at the Museum" who plans to film a story about the "Madison Monster," that wolf-like creature shot by I. A. Hutchins over a century ago. These people will be visiting the valley in January to research the story of the "Madison Monster" for their documentary film. And one other exciting news item regarding the "Madison Monster:" This mount has been permanently given to the MVHA.

Election of three board members will take place at the general membership meeting in May. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact one of the current board members.

This spring, work will continue on the "walk of names" from the Museum Building to the Blacksmith Shop. We plan a deck along the Museum Building and then a ramp from the south end of the Museum Building to the door of the Blacksmith Shop. So if you wish to honor a relative or friend, we still have boards for sale. If you are around this spring when construction begins, expect a call from one of us to come help with this project. It takes all of us to do our part and to keep the wagons rollin'.

Your Co-Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

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**History Tidbit** For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930's and '40's. Before there were interstates, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmer's fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet...and the obligatory 5th sign advertizing Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream. Here are some of the actual signs.

**DON'T STICK YOUR ELBOW  
OUT SO FAR  
IT MAY GO HOME  
IN ANOTHER CAR  
BURMA SHAVE**

**TRAINS DONT WANDER  
ALL OVER THE MAP  
'CAUSE NOBODY SITS  
IN THE ENGINEER'S LAP  
BURMA SHAVE**

**AROUND THE CURVE  
LICKETY-SPLIT  
BEAUTIFUL CAR  
WASN'T IT?  
BURMA SHAVE**

More Burma Shave signs in future Wagon Tongues

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the October issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.

**Janice Cleverley** (I) 682-4371

P.O. Box 455  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Kay Frisbie** (I) 682-4686

McAllister, MT 59740

**Gary Love** (I) 683-6382

375 Clark's Lookout Rd  
Dillon, MT 59725

**Membership Update** 2011 memberships are now past due and 2012 are now being accepted. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2012 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your membership is due during Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., or April you will find a membership renewal in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Member News**

Lula Wing, mother of MVHA member, Dave Wing celebrated her 104th birthday on Nov. 23. Some interesting historical facts gleaned by Leslie Skillman of the Manor for 1907, the year that Lula was born, are average wage was 22 cents an hour, coffee was 15 cents a pound, and sugar was 4 cents per pound. Only 8% of all homes had telephones and 14% had bathtubs.

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**2011 Memorials** Memorials given to the MVHA for 2011 were given in the names of Sheila Sullivan, John Robertson, Roy Estes, Chuck Armitage, JoAnn Marks, Josie Skibstad and Lehman Beardsley. A big thank you to all the folks who remembered the MVHA with memorials to loved ones, family and friends. The MVHA is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization so any donations are tax deductible.

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**Memories**

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers

will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

**Andrew Laszlo, Sr.** passed away Oct. 7, 2011 in Bozeman, MT at the age of 85. He was born in Papo, Hungary on Jan. 12, 1926. Andrew was the sole survivor of his family in various concentration camps and he made his way to live with an uncle in New Jersey. He met Ann Granger in 1950 and they were married in 1952. *Madisonian* obituary

**John J. Deleckla** passed away on Oct. 28, 2011. He was born on Nov. 18, 1922 in Bristol Conn. After his retirement John became a permanent fixture at the Beartooth Fly fishing on the Madison River near Cameron. *Madisonian* obituary Nov. 17, 2011

**Dorothy Swendig Hammond** passed away Oct. 28, 2011 at Ridge Wind Assisted Living in Pocatello, Id. After a first marriage ended in divorce, Dorothy married Harley Hammond in 1973 and they moved to Ennis where they enjoyed big sky views until Harley passed away in 2007. *Madisonian* obituary

MVHA member, **John J. Womack** passed away on Nov. 11, 2011 at the age of 91 in Dillon, MT. John's father was James Emmett Womack who was born at Timber Ridge, Missouri on August 17, 1894. He arrived in the Madison Valley in the spring of 1913. He followed a group of relatives and Missourians who settled on the Missouri Flats, land between the Madison River and Henry's Lake, Idaho. As a young man, he was employed on various ranches in the valley. His first employer was Bert Mitchell of Jeffers, MT. Upon reaching his 21 st birthday, he filed on a homestead at the southern end of Wade Lake, where he built a cabin was still in use in 1976.

At the outbreak of World War I in April 1917, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. While in New York, he met Frances Florina Cerutti, age 15. An elopement followed and they were married in St. Paul, Minn. on Sept 19, 1919. From there, they proceeded to Wade Lake. After a long, hard winter, they moved to Ennis, where he purchased five town lots from Mrs. William Ennis.

John James Womack was born in a room over the Ennis Cafe on Sept. 26, 1920. Dr. McNallen was in attendance. In 1922, his father constructed their house on Hugel Street. John was a 1938 graduate of Ennis High School and earned a degree for Montana State Normal College in 1947 and a Master's Degree in 1955. John married Vivian Marie Love, daughter of Isam Love in Nov. 1942. They lived in Dillon, then Helena and then back to Dillon.

*Madisonian* obituary Nov. 17, 2011 and Pioneer Trails and Trials

(cont pg 3)



But prior to the census of 1870, a reliable number cannot be authoritatively documented.

Sterling had become sufficiently large as a population center by 1866 to merit a justice of the peace, Lucius S. Peck, and a constable, Samuel J. Sanguin. A year later Hot Spring's voters elected a deputy sheriff --James M. Fish, while Peck and Sanguine were replaced by James S. Piper and Holland Laffie Sevier. **9** Each of these public officials had offices in Sterling. That the camp had really come of age was certified when the United States government authorized the location of a post office in Sterling on October 22, 1867, with the forementioned Andrew Hall, a Unionist and ardent Republican, receiving the appointment as postmaster. **10**

As Sterling grew in size and its importance as the district's population and commercial hub developed, so too did its delivery services. Consequently, within six months of its founding Sterling was connected to Virginia City by several stagecoach and delivery companies: A.J. Oliver & Company's daily morning express for Helena via Sterling and the Hot Spring area; the Hot Spring Express, an every-other-day service between Virginia City and Sterling; and Smith's, and then Roper's Gallatin Express, a weekly service between Bozeman and Virginia City, with stops in the Hot Spring District, including Sterling.**11**

In all likelihood, these services employed the facilities of Sterling's stables, including feed and fresh horses. Human activity around these stables would have been impressive.**12** Mail contracts, such as the three-year contract granted James F. Forman by the U.S. Postal Service in April 1867, followed these routes, much as telegraph lines would follow rails, and the arrival of mail in a town like Sterling would have guaranteed the occasion of a social gathering.**13** During 1866 prospects for Sterling's growth were such that there was even talk that John Creighton would extend the Western Union Telegraph Company's lines from Virginia City to Sterling; but Creighton's primary target was the burgeoning community of Helena, and the Hot Spring link did not materialize.

**End notes:** **1.** Corbett's Territorial Survey Field Notes, Oct. 10, 1868, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, Montana.  
**2.** This waiver was common throughout the mining west. See Duane Smith, *Rocky Mountain Mining Camps: The Urban Frontier* (Bloomington and London, 1967), 128.  
**3.** *Report of J. Ross Browne on the Mineral Resources of the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains* (Washington, D.C., 1868), 487. Population figures for the territory in the 1860s, or prior to the Federal Census of 1870, fluctuate wildly, generally on the side of excess, and are often quite unreliable.

**4.** *Montana Post*, Sep. 14, 1867.

**5.** Henry A. Ward to George Mumford, Sep. 6, 1867, Henry Augustus Ward Papers, Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.

**6.** Hot Spring's population break-down follows observations advanced by Randall Rohe, who applies these ratios to all of Montana Territory. Idaho and Nevada, in contrast, were populated by large number of Californians.

See Rohe, "Hydraulicling in the American West: The Development and Diffusion of a Mining Technique," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 35 (Spring 1985), 18-35.

**7.** Montana Census for 1870, District 5, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, Montana.

**8.** *Ibid.*

**9.** Record Books N/381, 382; Q/66, Clerk and Recorder's Office, Madison County Courthouse, Virginia City, Montana.

**10.** Microfilm publication M841, Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832-September 30, 1971, Roll No. 76, Madison County, Montana Territory, Record Group 28, Records of the Post Office Department, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

**11.** *Montana Post*, June 16, 1866.

**12.** Clark C. Spence, "The Livery Stable in the American West," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 36 (Spring 1986), 36-49.

**13.** *Montana Post*, Apr. 13, 1867

Territorial Assembly meeting in the fall of 1866.

**Sterling City The Hot Spring Mining District's HubPart II** to be continued in April 2012 with stage coach companies complaining about the roads and the Virginia City Hill.

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MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with an electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010, second in Jan. 2011, third in April 2011, fourth in August 2011 and fifth in October 2011. If you have missed the first five installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 5 issues. **DAD'S Diary** submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes. The October 2011 issue left them on **Thurs. March 23, 1905** in Siligman with nothing to do. Got into William's last night. Rode awhile and walked a while. Put up at the Grand Canyon Hotel. Was walking down the street and a fellow politely informed me that if I didn't stop my noise I would get knocked down. Was glad to get the information, will know how to act in the future.

**Fri. Mar. 24** Slept 'til noon, good bed. Met another stray puncher from Texas, hunting a job. Bumming around with him today. Nothing doing yet, too early. Spent a little money trying to open up some of these fellows.



she served her community as a midwife. When Janet McAtee interviewed her about her life on the Missouri Flats before 1914, her replies implied that she considered the ordeal of walking to a neighbor's home on skis as much of a hazard as the major problems that might be involved in delivering the new baby--she was a large woman. She took only the most necessary trips during the part of the winter when the snow was deep on the Missouri Flats.

Organized recreational skiing was known to the old timers, but the pictures of Thomas Brook prove that before W.W.I, young men came to his cabin to enjoy winter sports bringing modern looking skis, snowshoes, and toboggans. He had a homestead near the present Jack Kirby ranch on the West Fork.

In 1938 a formal club was organized by the recreational skiers and they decided to build their second tow in Jack Creek Canyon near the Diamond J Dude Ranch, Additional skiers who became active members of the ski club were the Jack Rouses, the Dallas Haydens, the Ralph Brownells (he was manager of the power house at Ennis Lake), the Hoags, the Saiers, the Huttons, Jeff Jeffers, Buster Saunders, Janice Watkins, Ray Kohls, Jr., Ray Olson, Ann Wilsey, Merlin Stock and Duke Gustafson. Dorothy Thompson who later married Ed Maynard gave the project financial assistance while she was a guest at the Diamond J. Members of the club remember the informal parties in the member's homes after the skiing was over.

The Ennis Ski Club had a great deal of talent among its members. Claude Angle and Ralph Brownell working together could get the best possible performance from mechanical equipment. They kept the tows operating and set up efficient timing devices for ski meets. The Jack Creek Ski Center was the first in the state to have a broadcasting system. This was invaluable to the efficient operation of a tournament and the emergencies handled by the ski patrol. It also provided the luxury of alpine music with which to ski.. They took moving pictures of the 1957 tournament on the Jack Creek Ski Run.

Jule "Duke" Gustafson was an expert skier when he joined the club, and talented beginners could copy his wonderful skiing form as well as profit from his instructions. He knew skiers from the ski circuit who were willing to visit the Jack Creek Center when it was starting.

Several families who joined the club were so dedicated that their children became fine competitive skiers. The most outstanding were Volker and Alarich Saier, Billy and Tommy Bry, Dean Matzick, the younger brother of Ruth and Maxine, Claude and Bud Angle, Ralph Northway and George Shabarker. The cousins, Virginia, Janet and Shirley Jeffers were good competitive skiers and popular at any ski tournament. They added sparkle both

to their team and to the center where they skied.

From 1945 until 1960 the club was a part of the Northern Rocky Mountain Ski Association which is a regional branch of the National Ski Association of America. Ralph Brownell was first vice president of the association from 1945 to 1946 and Eugene Saier from 1950 to 1951. In 1960 Mr. Saier was on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for Junior Skiing of the National Ski Association.

The Ennis Ski Team attended the 1945 NRMSA tournament at Elkhorn Hot Springs near Dillon where Ennis skiers walked off with the lions's share of tournament ribbons. Duke Gustafson was first in the class A downhill and slalom and Claude Angle was second in the downhill. Virginia Jeffers won the women's slalom and was second in the downhill. Volker Saier won first in the men's class B downhill and Billy Bry tied for second. (from American Ski Annual 1945-1946, pg. 223-225)

The Club hosted the 1946 NRMSA tournament and the experts reported the Jack Creek Ski Center was the best run yet used for a Montana meet. The run was a mile and a quarter long with a 1000 foot drop which was the best available before the Big Mountain Center was developed at Whitefish. Audrey Roth set the runs and foreran the women's course. Betty Woolsey, who was a member of the Olympic Team foreran the men's course. Eugene Saier, chairman of the race committee and was assisted by Bill Bry and Ralph Brownell. The succeeded in setting up a timing system so that race results could be reported back to the officials immediately. The banquet was served at the Masonic Hall in Jeffers and was followed by a public dance. (from American Ski Annual, 1946 -1947 page 303-4.

Montana trained skiers did not show too well in this meet competing against Dr. Amos R. Little of the Search and Rescue Section of the Continental Air Force. Duke Gustafson placed third in the men's class A Division, and his wife, Shirley Jeffers Gustafson placed in downhill and slalom. Alarich Saier and Tommy Bry were winners in the junior slalom.

In 1947 Dr. Amos R. Little and his wife competed again at the Mount Belmont Highballer Trail near Marysville. Volker Saier was first in B class and Alarich Saier in C class. The first annual NRMSA Junior Ski Meet was on Butte's Beef Trail where the Ennis team was successfully represented by Billy and Tommy Bry and Alarich Saier.

The Ennis Public Schools had accepted skiing as a major athletic sport by 1947 and students could take the ski bus to the Jack Creek Ski Center on Wednesdays and receive free ski instruction. Ennis was the first school in the state to do this and when it was successful, the Bozeman schools adopted the plan.

The Club ran a bus for about five years. Students from the Ennis Schools were hauled for 25 cents and could have free lessons on Wed,

*cont on pg 7*

***Skiing in the Madison Valley cont from pg 6***

Members of the club collected second hand ski equipment with which to start beginners. Equipment became a problem because the young people did not take care of it unless they were carefully supervised. In 1954 the club authorized Claude Angle to salvage usable parts and sell anything he could find a market for. The bus became a problem in a different way. Bus drivers were the only people paid by the ski club. Insurance was also expensive because of the amount of liability such function required. The old bus was sold in 1960 and the newer one was rented on request.

Duke Gustafson, Eugene Saier and later Volker Saier were the resident ski instructors who did much to develop the ability of the young skiers. Ski instruction was open with the club members charged with the responsibility to instruct beginners who needed help. In practice a few members seemed to do all the work. In 1954 the club authorized Eugene Saier to start an organized ski school which would meet on Saturdays. After a few meetings the formal school stopped and the beginners received their help on an informal basis.

The 1948 NRMSA tournament was at the new Big Mountain Ski Run at Whitefish. Dr. Amos R. Little was again competing in the men's class A division. At the age of 17, Volker Saier who was trained by Duke Gustafson, was able to win both the downhill and the slalom in the class A to the delight of Montana skiers. Eugene Saier was ecstatic when his 13 year old son, Alarich, won the same awards in the class C division. The Saiers had won six gold trophies at one meet: the downhill, slalom and combined trophies for both class A and class C divisions. Volker Saier was offered a full athletic scholarship at Dartmouth and Alarich headed the ski school at Big Sky of Montana.

The NRMSA congratulated the Ennis Ski team on its fine program for high school skiers in 1948, and during the winter Roger Langley, who was the editor of the American Ski Annual, visited the Jack Creek Ski Center and was hosted by Bill Bry and Ralph Brownell at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Ennis.

The team continued to compete successfully, but in 1951 the snow was very poor on all the runs except at Whitefish and West Yellowstone. The Ennis Ski team was forced to move their NRMSA tournament to Lionhead Ski Area at West Yellowstone.

The club minutes show they had tournaments on the Jack Creek Ski Run in 1954, 1955 and 1957. In 1955 the meet was the NRMSA combined downhill and slalom. Toni Matt of Whitefish set the course. The club was congratulated on the efficiency of its arrangements with Eugene Saier chairman of the race committee, assisted by Claude Angle and Vern Sylvester.

The Ennis Ski Team gave the NRMSA an additional event for their tournaments.

The ski club had many expenses. The constant one is keeping up the tow. The books of the club show no labor costs but after 1957 members were given \$5.00 credit on tow charges for each session they worked on the run. Claude Angle remembered building a credit of over \$500 which he had no means of using because the run always needed work. Other club members such as Eugene Saier and later Dean Matzick contributed like amounts of labor. It may have been this situation which caused the club to stop meeting after 1956. The members with the ability and generosity to keep up the tow and instruct the young skiers did all the work for the club.

Other ski expenses were the major purchases of the tow itself and of a packer for the snow on the run. In 1956 the club had the towers on the run rebuilt and the cable replaced with a used cable given by the Lionhead Ski Club of West Yellowstone. They needed a stronger cable and a heavier motor. By 1963 a new cable cost \$1,300 but a temporary splice was made for \$170. In 1964, Dean Matzick started construction on a snow roller, but a packer had to be purchased in 1964 for \$1,300. When the club stopped collecting dues in 1965, they still owed \$540 on the note for the packer.

It was necessary to have a ski patrol to take care of accidents on the run. Nels Troedsson built a rescue toboggan and other club members supplied medical equipment and blankets. Some of the skiers sneaked the toboggan out for recreational use and scattered the equipment. The ski Patrol had to store the toboggan at the Diamond J for safe keeping.

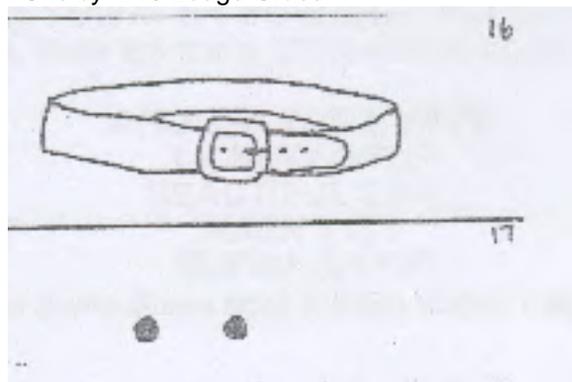
The Ennis Ski Club was most successful between 1945 and 1955. Before this date the community was not educated enough to appreciate skiing as a team sport. After 1955 the young members who had been most successful on the ski team left the community. Without sufficient youthful support involved too much labor for a few older members to continue. The run was open sporadically until 1968. The club has not met since 1968, but it still had a bank account in 1974.

The Jack Creek ski run area is now private property. Pictures of what is remaining of equipment and area can be see at the MVHA museum.

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**Montana Trivia Answers** to October 2011

#14 Shelby #15 Lodge Grass



**For Your Reading Pleasure**

Your editor needs names and authors of good Madison Valley or Montana books that you have read and recommend to our members. Send any ideas you have to: Editor Wagon Tongue P. O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729 or give them to her at a future meeting. Thanks!

**Looking Ahead**

**Feb.16, 2012** 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank

World War II Veterans of the Madison Valley

**Mar. 17,2012** William Ennis Birthday Celebration Irish

Stew Dinner at Rural Fire Hall. 5:00 to 7:00pm

Community will have various events around town to honor our founder. Plan to help make this a great celebration. This is a Saturday in order to celebrate his birthday on the actual date.

**April 19** to be announced

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**MVHA Cookbook**

It ia not to late to get a copy of the MVHA historical cookbook. It is available at the MVHA Meetings and at the Ennis Pharmacy. You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to MVHA, P. O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

**Walk of Names** Orders are still being taken for the boards for the museum walkways. You may order one for \$50 at the above address or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415.

**Madison Valley History Association, Inc.**

**Board of Directors**

Co-President: Otis Thompson

Co-President: Larry Love

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: John White

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to Apri—Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April 2012.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes Dec. 25,1904-Mar. 23,1905*

*Madisonian* Obituaries

James Womack Pioneer Trails and Trials pg. 205-206

Dr Jeff Safford *Sterling Part II*

Minnie Paugh *“Skiing in the Madison Valley”*

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 474  
Ennis, MT 59729

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# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 10 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

April 2012

**From the Wagon Seat** Spring is here! The sand hill cranes, blue birds, robins (I think they stayed all winter) meadowlarks, and Canada geese are all pairing up and yes, some of our snow birds have returned home. The Easter storms have given us some much needed moisture.

The MVHA is moving into spring and summer modes. We just completed our very successful annual Irish Stew dinner in honor of our founding father, William Ennis, on his birthday March 17. Our William Ennis essay contest was won by Tiernyn Bills and second place went to Samantha Kimmey. They read their essays and got to pick a piece of jewelry, one donated by Jo Thompson and one made and donated by Don Black. First place also got a Jimmy Spray book and second, a MVHA Historic Cookbook. A job very well done by both 8th grade gals.

A big thank you to all that helped to host the dinner and clean up. The Blarney Stones and Irish Soda Bread were outstanding. We had lots of good comments. We served about 100 people on a very busy Saturday night. A big thank you to all that came and supported the MVHA. It is greatly appreciated.

Our programs are still continuing with great success under the leadership of Don Black. The April meeting is a program by Michael Byrnes speaking on the book, The Horse Called Spokane, and Sam Korsmoe providing updates on the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. In May, we will have our annual potluck meeting at Trinity Church in Jeffers. We will show a short video of "the beast" made several years ago by students from Montana State University. Also at this meeting, we will be electing three members to the MVHA board of directors. Liz Applegate, David Hoag and Larry Love have agreed to be candidates for the board. A list of what we would like you to bring will be under the Looking Ahead section on page 8. The June program will be about the moonshining business in the valley during Prohibition. In July and August we will have a field trip to the valley cemeteries and a forge demonstration at the museum. Dates and times of these events will be announced later.

Stop on Main Street at the old Madison Valley Bank building and view the MVHA display in the windows. Don and Toni Bowen of Arrow Real Estate have the building listed and invited the MVHA to put up a display to help the appearance of the building.

The MVHA will be working toward the opening the museum. In May we will be working on the deck and Walk of Names going south to the forge building. We will be moving some display cases and getting displays set up in the forge building and new displays in the main museum. There is lots of work to do before the opening on Memorial Day Weekend and then for the season on June 12th.

We need three people to have a rotation on being the Scheduler for the volunteers at the museum. In order for our organization to "keep our wagons rolling", we need everyone to sign up for a day or two for hosting at the museum. This is very important. If everyone helps, it makes it a lot easier for all of us. Let us know of your ideas, of your plans to work and together we will continue to keep our wagons rolling.

Your co-Wagon Master, Larry Love

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**History Tidbit** . More Burma Shave signs and a MVHA contest!! Co-president, Otis Thompson has offered to allow the MVHA to put up signs on his property on the north side of the highway as you approach the museum site on Hwy 287. He would like it to resemble the Burma Shave signs of long ago with the four line couplet and the last one being "MVHA Museum". See what you can come up with. More details to be announced later. (See January 2012 issue for explanation of history of Burma Shave signs) Here are some of the actual Signs. Send your creations to MVHA, Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729

**DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD  
TO GAIN A MINUTE  
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD  
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT  
BURMA SHAVE**

**DROVE TOO LONG  
DRIVER SNOOZING  
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT  
IS NOT AMUSING  
BURMA SHAVE**

**NO MATTER THE PRICE  
NO MATTER HOW NEW  
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE  
IN THE CAR IS YOU  
BURMA SHAVE**

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the January issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.

**Bennetts, Charlie (I)**  
P.O. Box 41  
Elmo, Mt 59915

**Membership Update** 2011 memberships are now past due and 2012 are now being accepted. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2012 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your membership is due during April, May, June, or July you will find a membership renewal in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729. (Thank you, Chuck Bennetts for purchasing a membership for Charlie Bennetts..see above)

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Memories**

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

**Charles "Chuck" Rosemond** passed away on Jan. 13, 2012 in Virginia City, Mt. He was born September 1939 in Hollywood, Calif. and in 1969 moved to Montana. He worked as a Marshall in Virginia City and as a Madison County deputy. His extensive knowledge of western history and his witty and gregarious nature made him a popular Virginia City character.

**Mary Jane (Albrecht) Seyler** died at the age of 93 2

on Jan. 15, 2012 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. She was born on June 29, 1919 in Sheridan, MT, the 4th child of 10 children to Blanche (Moore) and Hans Albrecht. Raised in Sheridan and married Edwin Earl Seyler of Twin Bridges. She is the grandmother to Tana (Chip) Bowles of Cameron.

**Frank Reinoehl** age 97 of Missoula passed away Feb. 2, 2012 in Missoula. He was born at home on Oct. 14, 1914 near Elm Springs, Sk, Canada to Ezra and Rhoda (Clifton) Reinoehl. He moved to Saco, MT at age of 5 and then to Orvando. He is the father of Madison Valley resident, Dan Reinoehl.

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**William Ennis Birthday Celebration**

The fourth annual William Ennis Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the Madison Valley History Association was held March 17 at the Ennis Rural Fire Hall. A good crowd feasted on Irish Stew, Irish soda bread, Blarney stones and Birthday cake. Most everyone stayed for the evening, had seconds of great food, enjoyed great company and great conversations that never ended until the doors were locked for the night. If you did not attend, you missed a great birthday celebration of the founding father of our great community of Ennis.

A great big Thank you to all the MVHA members who helped in some way to make this celebration a success. Planning meetings, posters, putting up posters, window display, Madisonian articles, getting the supplies, arranging for the stew and cole slaw, getting donations from the merchants, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and a myriad of tasks to pull this off. I don't have a list of all that helped so cannot list them but you know who you are and thanks a bunch.

For those of you who are new or just did not know, William Ennis, the founder of the town of Ennis was born in Ireland on March 17, St. Patrick's Day thus our celebration each year on March 17. Stay tuned for next year.

Awards were presented to the two students who won the "I like William Ennis Because," essay contest. Both students are 8th graders in Mr. Nelson's English class at Ennis Junior High School. Samantha Kimmey placed second with her essay titled *William Ennis* and received a copy of the Madison Valley Historic Cookbook.

Tiernyn Bills took first with her essay *From Fodder to Founder*. She received a copy of Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray. Both winners received her selection of jewelry, one made by Don Black and one donated by Jo Thompson, both MVHA members. Essays were also printed in the *Madisonian*.

**William Ennis**

by Samantha Kimmey 8th Grade Ennis Jr. High School

I like William Ennis because he created the beautiful town of Ennis, a town in which I am lucky to live. William Ennis was born in County Down, Ireland, on March 17th, 1828, also known as St. Patrick's Day. He was the 6th of 11 children to be born to John and Mary Ennis. William's father escorted him to America when he was just 14. (cont. on page 3)

He left William in the care of his brother in Massachusetts, and later returned to Ireland. In 1845, a great famine, known as the Potato Famine, swept across Ireland. The disaster killed William's parents and 4 of his brothers. When William got older, he began working on the railroads, only to soon start a freight business. He came to Montana in 1863 to bring supplies to the gold fields. William fell in love with Montana, settling in the city of Bannack for a few years. He was later directed to the Madison Valley, where he found lush, green pastures. William laid claim to the land and built a cabin, moving his wife, Katherine, and 2 kids to the Madison Valley. He proceeded in building a general store, livery stable, and post office. The family also began a telegraph service in 1891, linking Ennis to the outside world. Only 7 years later, on June 18th, 1898, William was shot. Martin Peel, a neighbor who was angry with William for an unfounded rumor that he had maligned his character, shot him in the chest. William lived for another 15 days after the shooting, only to die on July 4th, 1898, America's Independence Day. The town of Ennis continues to live on, remembering and celebrating the life of its great founder, William Ennis.

**From Fodder to Founder**

By: Tiernyn Bills 8th Grade Ennis Junior High School

Coincidence or fate? This may be a question to ask Mr. William Ennis, Irishman and founder of Ennis, Montana. It could be said this humble man came from fodder to founder. It is a comical outlook, but very true, for William Ennis discovered our beautiful valley when he traveled down to Virginia City to fetch fodder for his animals. But how did William come to Montana in the first place?

William Ennis was born March 17, 1828, on Saint Patrick's Day in Country Down, Ireland. He was raised there by his parents John and Mary, and grew up alongside his brother David.

Maybe it was sheer pressure from his father, or the desire to learn about the United States, but William moved from his humble hometown to the U.S. at age fourteen. Accompanying him were his father and brother, David. Although John Ennis was the one who moved his sons, after three years of living in the United States he moved back to Ireland, leaving his sons behind with an uncle living in Detroit.

After working the railroads in his teens, William eventually began a business moving freight. It was around this time that William married the lovely Katherine Shriver from Ohio. They were wed on August 5, 1861, and later began a family. William was extremely proud of his two children Jennie and William Jr. With William's freight business booming and his family growing, he often shipped supplies to the gold infested hills of Montana. On one of his trips to our state he stumbled upon the folds of our sprawling valley. The rolling hills of the area reminded William of his days in Ireland, and he couldn't bear to leave such a scenic beauty. With his love for our state ablaze,

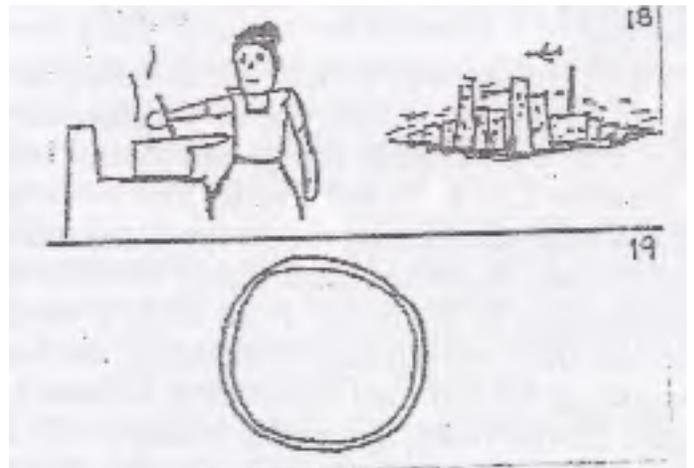
William began making hay to bring to Virginia City for more profit on his already successful business. With the boom of the gold rush in motion, William decided to build a cabin along the banks of Alder Gulch, a major gold pit near the valley. As his love for Montana grew, William eventually moved his family east. As he continued to run his freight business, the town of Ennis with his named sprouted from the ground surrounding him. Perhaps Ennis was named after William because he was such an avid community member and helped build many structures. These structures included a general store, livery stable, and a post office. Ennis owned a number of buildings, including a post office. William was a spectacular postmaster, and as the years wore on, Mr. Ennis' own daughter became a telegrapher. Like father like daughter.

William was eventually declared the founder of our village, and lived happily here for many years. It wasn't until 1898 that William met his death. He was staying over at the Madison House Hotel in Virginia City. While standing on the porch he was shot in the side by a man just next door. It was a rather shocking death, and a terrible fate. The shooter had identified himself as Martin Peel. After Martin's shot has been fired, he made a beeline to the sheriffs office to turn himself in. So why had Peel shot William in the first place? It was said that Martin has been trying to settle an old feud. William had reportedly been flirting with Peel's wife. Peel had supposedly burned down a city hall as well. Perhaps we will never truly know Martin's motives, but despite these unanswered questions, Peel was still sentenced to 15 years in the state penitentiary. He died in jail on November, 1905 at 73 years old.

After the shot Ennis was taken to his hotel room as doctors dressed his wound. Ennis lived 15 days after he was shot, abstaining from all food and drink during this long period. He died at 70 on July 4, 1898, American Independence Day. Ennis was born on Saint Patrick's Day, and died the 4th of July. Ennis was born an Irishman, and died a pureblooded American. Ennis died a true Montana man.



**Montana Trivia** Answers to January 2012 #16 Belt #17 Two Dot  
Your New Trivia:



**Sterling City: The Hot Spring Mining District's Hub Part II** by Dr. Jeffery J. Safford, professor emeritus of History of the Montana State University, Bozeman Continued from January 2012 Wagon Tongue

From the start, these stagecoach companies and their users complained strenuously about the poor quality of the road they had to traverse. This was especially true for the "Virginia City Hill," the road over the divide between Virginia City and the Madison Valley. This road peaked at nearly 7,000 feet, and on the Virginia City side it was extremely rough, precipitous, and hazardous. Freighters from the east constantly complained of getting within sight of their destination only to suffer more wagon upsets and loss of goods than on any other stretch between Montana and the States. **14**

The First Territorial Assembly of 1864 -1865 had granted charters to companies to construct roads, bridges, and ferries in return for the privilege of collecting tolls. But no charters had been issued for the Hot Spring area. The Second Territorial Assembly, meeting in the spring of 1866, passed two acts authorizing the construction of roads affecting Sterling, but there is no record of either road being built by those to whom the charters were granted.

The Third Territorial Assembly, meeting in the Fall of 1866 granted a large number of road, bridge, and ferry charters. One of these went to Robert Hedge and Samuel Bressler, who received an exclusive charter to construct a toll road from Virginia City to Sterling. This road was not to interfere with the then existing wagon road to Sterling, and its grade was never to exceed more than 17 percent, or seventeen feet per one hundred. When one realizes that today's interstate highways seldom exceed 6 to 7 percent grades, the difficulty of mountain road travel in those days is accentuated. **15** Before the new year, the legislature then granted a charter to M. Canady & Brothers to incorporate the Madison Bridge Company, which proposed to operate a toll bridge over the Madison River approximately three miles south of Black's Crossing. To make certain that no wagon could possibly avoid paying a toll, the company was granted a four mile right-of-way on both sides of the river, forcing all travelers going in any direction to pass over the company's bridge or property. **16** Two of the stone pile piers of this bridge can still be observed in the middle of the river just north of the present concrete crossing.

Robert Hedge, who bought out Bressler, commenced his toll road at the eastern end of Virginia City, crossing it over the Madison Range and joining the old road at Meadow Creek. It had a better and lower grade than the old road--eliminating the steepest and most arduous section--and shortened the distance between the two communities by six miles--from thirty to twenty-four. The old, free road alternative remained, but Hedge counted on his toll road succeeding because of its lower grade, shorter route, and better roadbed. **17** Hedge had planned to complete his road in October 1867, but complications, including his enlistment in the

territorial militia for the 1867 Indian campaign [to be discussed in a subsequent edition of *The Wagon Tongue*], and by the onset of winter, postponed its completion until February 1868. Much earlier, perhaps as early as October 1867, the Madison Bridge Company had completed its toll bridge over the Madison River. Here, tolls were double what Hedge was charging: To cross the bridge a wagon drawn by a span of horses, mules, or oxen, cost two dollars and each additional span fifty cents. **18**

As Hedge and the Madison Bridge Company worked on their construction projects, Sterling merchants James M. Fish and Charles Toinbee capitalized in their own way on the Hot Spring District's need for regular freight, passenger, and mail service. Fish was a prototypical gold camp entrepreneur. Wearing many hats, he operated out of his general store, ran a saloon, provided the camp with basic goods, served Sterling as its deputy sheriff, the *Montana Post* as its stringer and regional agent, and the Republican Party as one of the district's most active members.

In April 1867 the twenty-nine year old Fish and his partner expanded their business interests by organizing the Sterling & Gallatin Express, a semiweekly four-horse-drawn spring wagon service between Virginia City, Sterling, and the Gallatin Valley. **19** James Forman's mail service, previously by horse only, now featured coaches and passenger accommodations and continued to operate between the same terminals, serving Sterling, Willow Creek, Gallatin City [at the headwaters of the Missouri River], and Bozeman City. Mail service was not cheap: it cost fifty cents to post a letter from Virginia City to Bozeman. **20** Later, in the spring of 1868, Fish & Toinbee extended their line on a semiweekly basis to the new diggings at Crow Creek, or Radersburg, thirty-five miles or so to the north, on the west side of the Missouri River. For want of patronage, however, the Radersburg extension was discontinued after only two months. **21** Because Hot Spring and Sterling lay on established routes between Virginia City and Helena and between Virginia City and the Gallatin Valley, they enjoyed reasonably good freight, mail, and passenger services throughout the 1860s and beyond, even as they declined as significant mining centers.

### Endnotes

14. *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 1866. Members of the Sawyers Expedition of 1865, which crossed over the divide from the Madison Valley to Virginia City in October of that year, described the descent down the west side of the Virginia City hill as one of the worst and roughest roads, if not the very worst and roughest road they had encountered over the entire journey from Nebraska. See James A. Sawyers, "Wagon Road from Nebraska to Virginia City," 39th Congress, 1st Session, 1865-66, House Ex. Doc. No. 58; Lewis H. Smith Diary, 1865, SC1716, Montana Historical Society Archives, Helena, M

*Continued on pg 5*

End notes continued from pg 4

15. Montana House, Council *Journal*, 3d Session, Dec. 13, 1866, 253.
16. *Ibid.*, Dec. 3, 1866, 202. See also *Montana Post*, Nov. 24, 1866.
17. *Montana Post*, Nov. 16, 1867.
18. Montana, *General Laws and Memorials and Resolutions of the Territory of Montana, Passed at the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly* (1867), 117.
19. *Montana Post*, Apr. 27, June 15, 1867.
20. *Ibid.*, July 29, 1867,

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### Thomas Hughes' Diary

MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with an electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010, second in Jan. 2011, third in April 2011, fourth in August 2011, fifth in October 2011 and sixth in January 2012.. If you have missed the first five installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 6 issues.

**DAD'S Diary** submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes.

**Fri Apr 21, 1905** Got in a big stallion today. Didn't buck much but fell down all over me.

**Sat. Apr. 22** Had a few words with Jake this morning; Didn't amount to much, he forgets what he says in five minutes. He and I came over to the Well ranch on our way to Williams today.

**Sun Apr 23** Rained last night so we did not go on.

**Mon. Apr. 24** Started from the ranch for Williams this morning. Owen and I rode for cattle yesterday. Tried my hand at roping calves but made a complete failure, of course. Are camped at Apache tonight.

**Tue Apr 25** Made my bed on the floor last night and had to stay awake all night to keep the mountain rats and bob cats off my bed. Hadn't been in bed 10 minutes when a big rat commenced to try my hair.

Got into Williams about two o'clock. Old Jake had a little surprise for me. Told me he guessed he would pay me off. Said I talked back too much. The old devil, he needn't think he can cuss me. I agreed to take my money but told him I thought it was a hell of a way to do, bring me clear into town before saying anything as I should have to go back out to see Army. He finally said I could work until we got back to the ranch, and then if I would change my ways, he might possibly let me stay. I don't think I'll stay under such conditions as that, he would have me over a barrel then.

**Wed. Apr. 26** Rode for horses today. Jake thinks I am scared to death for fear he isn't going to let me work. Have got a little surprise up my sleeve for him. Got the offer of two jobs today and accepted one. So will just wait until Jake goes to his railroad boss work over me and then I will spring it.

**Thur. Apr 27** Got some more horses today. Halter broke six. Jake still as good as pie to me. Guess he intends to wait until we get out to the ranch and then commence to pulling the bung.

Got a mean little devil of a brown horse in today

and Jake wants me to ride him and drive the horses out to the ranch. I am through hanging horses on broncs. Jake went to Prescott today. Hollered orders out the car window for five miles.

**Fri. Apr. 28** Halterbreaking horses today. Delivered two mares to Miller.

**Sat. Apr. 29** Rode two colts this morning and brought the little brown up to the house. Want to handle him a little before I get up in the middle of him.

**Sun Apr 30** Helping Corb shoot cats this forenoon. Rode the brown horse, bucked a little but not as bad as I expected.

**Mon. May 1st** Bad luck has commenced, caused by shooting cats. Nearly knocked a little buckskins eye out with the quirt while he was bucking. The Old Man hasn't seen it yet. Hope he won't for it will be all right in a couple of days.

**Tue. May 2nd** Got me a man eater today. Put me on the fence. Had to talk to him with a club. Didn't buck - laying for me! Snowing like the devil tonight, nearly froze working a bunch of horses. Rope got as big as your wrist with mud.

**Wed. May 3rd** Snowing yet. Corral full of snow and mud. The Old Man getting uneasy. Wants me to go at the horses. I told him I wouldn't ride in the mud. He looked a whole lot but kept still. He is getting pretty sassy again. I'm afraid I will not get to wait until I get out to the ranch before I spring my little surprise.

**Thur May 4th** Still snowing. Old Man getting more uneasy all the time. Think my surprise will go off most any time now.

**Fri. May 5th** Well, we had it again yesterday afternoon. Was trying to shoe Dick. 1st he bit me in the ribs, hurt like the devil, I kept my temper and kept on. 2nd he kicked me in the posterior extremity of my parts, still kept cool. That is, pretty middling cool, considering. Recommended a damn good beating as a remedy for Mr. Dick's faults. The Old Man don't like my tone I can see. 3rd, Dick kicks the hammer out of my hand and it hits me in the forehead, starting a couple of nice nest eggs. Am afraid I lost my temper here, may have used some profane language. Told the Old Man I wouldn't shoe him without throwing him. The Old Man says "Well, I can get someone to shoe him without throwing him".

I suggested the advisability of commencing the search at once and I would gladly receive what was coming to me. Passed a few confidential remarks. I told him my honest opinion of him and he favored me likewise. I still insisted on a split in partnership, so his tone commenced to change and he beseeched me, in a very soft voice, to stay with him at least until he got the "broomies" out to the ranch. Insinuated that possibly the fellow whom he could get to shoe Dick would like to help him out with them but he commenced saying some such flowery compliments that I couldn't refuse him, so I am still working for J. Cauffman.

I had a chance to go to work juicing cows this morning. May take the job, (in a pigs valise).

**Sat. May 6** Hired out to Roy Wolf this morning, to commence work as soon as I return from Keasaw. The old man awfully good to me now. Even calls me "Tom". Evidently thinks I may change my mind yet. I've got a "think" that doesn't sound at all like that. He went to Prescott today. Gave me no orders whatever. Said I could use my own judgement about handling the horses

**Sun May 7** Shod Dick this morning with the aid of good buggy whip.

**Mon. May 8** The Old Man got home last night. Still calls me "Tom", but am afraid his manner is too good to last.

**Mon. May 8** (*Date repeated*) Strike Bert Daniels, a Montana lad who is working for Boyce. He is foreman and offered me a job punching cows. I did not give him a definite answer.

**Tue. May 9** The Old Man still good to me, evidently thinks he may persuade me to stay with him yet.

**Wed May 10** Start for ranch this morning. George Holden helping us. The Old Mans manner has changed. He has cut me out completely. Has nothing to say to me, guess he has heard I was going to work for Bert. We drove hard all day and are camped at Howard Springs tonight. Good house, big fire place and no bedding. Won't get much sleep tonight.

**Thur May 11** George and I took turns building fire last night, kept our saddle blankets warm anyway. Got to ranch about noon. Jake gives Army a long "con" talk, tells him I ain't worth a damn. Army and I have decided that he had better stay with Jake unless I do not get work.

**Sat May 13** Rode into Seligman to take the train into Williams. Army leads our saddle horses back to ranch. Got into Williams about 10 o'clock. Jake says I can sleep in my old bed in the barn, but I decline the invitation with thanks. Would sleep under a cedar rather than let him do me a favor. Have plenty of money anyhow, as Army made me take \$10 and Jake will pay me tomorrow. Put my saddle in Geo. Holden's barn.

**Sun. May 14** Jake paid me this morning. My books call for \$30.65. His say \$30.15. Pass a few more confidential remarks, but he refuses to pay the other four bits and won't let me show him my books. The poor old Old Devil, guess I had better let him have it. He needs it worse than I. He only has property amounting to three or four hundred thousand.

**Mon May 15** If I never was a man before, I am from this day on. Also my poll tax commences today.

*Note: The date, May 15, is written in large letters.*

*Above the date is a note (circled): "birthday" 21 yrs.* Saw Boyce. He doesn't know for sure whether he will get his cattle or not. This means a weeks wait in Williams.

**Tue May 16** Bumming around with Lee Terry. Put in most of our time during the day sitting in hobo corner. At night we can generally find something else to do.

**Wed May 17** Geo Barney wants to hire me. Put him off until Boyce gets back.

**Thur May 18** (*no entry*)

**Fri. May 19** (*no entry*)

**Sat May 20** (*no entry*)

**Sun May 21** Riding around with Jim Kennedy, the city marshall, today. Ate Sunday chicken with him. Somewhat different than California hospitality.

**Mon May 22** Boyce got back. No cattle, so I told Barney I would work for him.

**Tue May 23** Go to work tomorrow. Was amused by watching a newly wedded couple starting on their wedding journey with the customary shower of rice and baby shoes. From the looks of the bride, I would gladly have exchanged places with the groom, even if they were throwing no. 11 boots.

**Wed May 24** Went out with Barney today. He has a nice old woman, dandy cook, good looker, and likes kids of about my caliber. Planted spuds, branded calves, rode for horses, and various other things today. Am glad I told him I was coming in Sat.

**Thur May 25** Saddle horses got away last night. Barney rode all forenoon but didn't find them. Don't seem to think it would be any use sending me out. Planted onions and did a few other jobs today. Barney rode again this afternoon, says we will both ride tomorrow.

**Fri May 26** We go out after horses. Barney takes good saddle horse and gives me an old stick. Sends me where he thinks horses won't be, he going in another direction. I find them in about 15 minutes and take them in. He rides all forenoon and comes in at noon, mad as hell. Seemed surprised that I found them.

**Sat May 26** Barney went to town yesterday afternoon, left me out there to fix up fence. I came into town this morning. Got paid off. Saw Holloway and he says he can't get his broncs until horse rodier (?) starts, which will be about the fifth of June. This means another lay over in town.

**Sun May 27** Am boarding with Coker, a Texas puncher. Wouldn't cost me so very much if I stayed away from town. A couple new girls in town. Which helps me somewhat in getting separated from my slender capital. Was worth it though to see some of these 10 cent dudes scowl at you.

**Monday 28** Coker and his brother in law want to go in with me and get a lot of horses to break. Good fellows, but am afraid if we struck anything very bad, they would throw it down. Was worth something though just to hear them talk. All the Texas fellows have a queer way of talking using funny expressions.

**Tue May 29** Nothing doing. Coker and Franklin doing lots of talking, and I am doing lots of thinking. Have refused a dozen jobs, just because I want to get to working for myself, may find myself up against it again.

**Wed. May 30** Still find no difficulty in getting rid of my money, but it is in a good cause, so I don't regret it - - at least yet. New race horse in town. Bet my saddle against a horse and saddle on him, in the race between him and Miller's black mare. Wrote to Laurence today, trying to find out the best way to get some one to make me a present of \$500. Am going to do something desperate.

*Continued in July 2012 Wagon Tongue with Thurs. May 31, 1905.*



## For Your Reading Pleasure

The Horse Called Spokane: Montana's 1889 Kentucky Derby Winner by "Mac"McArthur. The historical events of the life and death of the great horse are presented in a most colorful Louis L'Amour style of narrative. The story of Montana's pioneer Noah Armstrong's career, horse racing passion, Spokane's races and the building of the "Dream Round Barn" are chronicled throughout the book's pages. This book is the subject of the April program for the MVHA.

## Looking Ahead

**May 17 4:00pm** Trinity Church Jeffers MVHA Annual meeting Potluck Dinner Please bring the following dishes according to last name: A to H bring a dessert, I to Q bring a main dish and R to Z bring a salad. Bachelors can bring rolls, butter, lemonade, etc. Program will be a video produced by Students at MSU on "The Beast."

**June 21 4:00pm** First Madison Valley Bank Program will be Moonshining and Prohibition in the Madison V. **July and August** will be a Forge Day and a field trip to Madison Valley cemeteries with stories of our departed residents. Dates, times, details, etc. to be worked out and announcements made at meetings, Madisonian and July Wagon Tongue.

**MVHA Cookbook** It is not too late to get a copy of the MVHA historical cookbook. It is available at the Ennis Pharmacy. They make a great Mother's Day gift. You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

**Walk of Names** Orders are still being taken for the boards for the museum walkways. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. These boards will be used for the deck and walkway down to the forge. Don't forget to honor some one or give a memorial. Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729

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The MVHA is placing your Wagon Tongue in an envelop to eliminate the many pieces of tape and covering the staple as required by the US Postal Service. Due to that, the editor now has room for more articles, stories, etc. so will print an piece of poetry by our centurion, J. Hal Pasley with which many of you will identify.

### My Hearing Aid

You say I need a hearing aid  
I really don't know why  
If you would stop your mumbling  
You can if you would try  
And speak the way you used to speak  
so many years ago  
I'd understand each word you say  
and save a lot of dough  
At least I have my hearing aid  
I hope you're happy dear  
Just mumble to your hearts content  
Your voice is loud and clear  
I went to see the doctor  
he put them in my ear

## MVHA Board of Directors

Co-President: Otis Thompson

Co-President: Larry Love

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: John White

Director: Kevin Brenneke

Director: Don Black

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program.

Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2012.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes April 21, 1905-May 30, 1905*  
*Madisonian* Obituaries  
Dr Jeff Safford *Sterling Part II*  
Minnie Paugh excerpts from "*Recreation in Ennis, 1920-1974*" pg 114-116  
from The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community  
Don Black "Ennis Basketball Moments"  
"My Hearing Aid" by J. Hal Pasley

**Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank**

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I'm hearing sounds I haven't heard  
for many, many years  
The red one in my left ear  
the blue one in my right  
I kept them in all day long  
then took them out at night  
And then when morning rolled around  
as morning always do  
I thought I'd practice up a bit  
and put them in a time or two  
I knew I'd have a problem  
but still I had to try  
The one end went straight up my nose  
the other hit my eye  
But I was most persistent  
it was all my fault do doubt  
I finally got them in my ears  
then couldn't get them out  
But now my trouble is over  
it's easy as can be  
Then all at once they start to beep  
they need a battery  
They have a little on-off switch  
on the part behind my ear  
I turn them off when someone speaks  
whom I don't chose to hear  
I'm really glad I got my aids  
I needed them I know  
The one thing that still bothers me  
they cost a lot of dough.

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 10 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
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July 2012

**From the Wagon Seat:** It's good old "HOT" summertime here in the Madison Valley and from the Wagon Tongue Master's seat. We Are Cookin'. The history association presented its 12th consecutive float entry in the 4th of July Parade at Ennis. "Main Street Ennis" was this year's theme and our float was titled "MOONSHINE ON MAIN STREET". Of course Larry Loves's white tractor tugged the trailer which featured a rustic saloon (Swinging Doors too) in the style of Oscar Clark's Bar. Gamblers were Neil Kent, Kid Neville, Otis Thompson. Mountain man and Indian Maiden were Tony De'Armond and Karen Funk. Old Granny in rocking chair with a shotgun was Darla Black and The Fat Bar Tender with moonshine jug was Don Black.

The MVHA Museum has drawn national attention lately with the Travel Channel and the SY FY Channel doing documentary films on the BEAST (Ringdocus) story of the I.A. Hutchins family and Jack Kirby's donation to our museum.

Monthly MVHA programs for this season include: JUNE Moonshine On The Madison JULY A Historic Tour of the Madison Valley, Evans and McAllister Cemeteries AUGUST Otto Coss/W S Angle Blacksmith Event with Horseshoeing and finally SEPTEMBER A tour of the Noah Armstrong Round Barn (Spokane's Home) plus the Twin Bridges Museum and Shoshoni grave sites.

We are happy to introduce this year's 2012-2013 Board of Directors; Don Black -President, Larry Love Vice President, Otis Thompson - Past President, Duane Thexton – Secretary, Kevin Brenneke – Treasurer, and directors Liz Applegate and David Hoag. Shirley Love will serve as Wagon Tongue Editor. The Board thanks John White and Neil Kent for their past contributions as directors.

The Museum and Black Smith Shop have been busy with guests. Jynean Skank has been assisting Kevin Brenneke with our scheduling of GREAT VOLUNTEERS !

We would love to hear from you about your family news and historic notes/display to enhance the archives/displays. Feel free to drop us a line or email. See us also on Facebook. Help us keep in touch. Copies of programs are available on DVD plus our MVHA Cookbook, Early Day's In Madison Valley and much more ! Keep the wagons rolling.

Thanks; Don Black President

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**Museum Update** The Madison Valley History Association Museum opened for Memorial Day Weekend and then for the season on June 12. It is open from 1:00 to 4:00pm Tuesday through Sunday. Visitors are coming..more on some days than on others. The MVHA needs word of mouth advertising from our members. Tell your friends, relatives, neighbors and even a visitor to the Madison Valley about the museum and encourage them to visit. Posters and museum banners are up but the best way to get folks interested in visiting is to tell them about the museum yourself.

And in order to have visitors, the MVHA needs to have volunteers at the museum to greet and welcome our guests, act as hosts and hostesses, take folks around the museums, share history stories, sell a cookbook or other books and pictures and whatever you can do to make their visit memorable.

Kevin Brenneke () is the scheduling chairperson and she would welcome your call to volunteer for a day or more :) at the museum. Two folks work together so you do not have to do this alone. Great way to meet someone new whether another volunteer or a guest at the museum.

Some of our members do not live nearby but do visit Ennis sometime during the museum season. Plan ahead and call Kevin and she can arrange for you to volunteer at the museum during your time in the Ennis area. Many hands make light work and everyone who can volunteer at least once or more if possible will help out greatly. Many thanks to all those who have already signed up and worked a day!!



The program in Oct. presented by the MVHA lead by Don Black was Sports in the Madison Valley. As a follow up, the *Wagon Tongue* did Skiing in January and Boxing in April. This issue will find Early Sports with the feature being baseball.

### **Early Sports in Montana and Madison Valley**

Coming to the Montana Territory was tough work and serious business. Lives and success depended on it. This was a new chance, with free land and riches to be made. Was there even time for sports? . "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy! " Yes, communities grew together. A sporting event usually meant the works. Friends, family, picnic meals, long hours, holidays, baths, dressed up and a little spare change.

The most popular sporting activities in the early settler days of the Madison Valley were racing, baseball games, rodeos, and ice skating. Fishing and hunting were considered as part of supplying food for the table. Predatory animals were hunted for the protection of stock and humans. The hides of wolves, coyotes, bears and varmints were tanned for clothing and sales.

Races were big appeal activities that gave participants a thrill and spectators entertainment with a bit of wagering thrown in for fun. Of course big time gambling was serious business at saloons on the other side of the hill. Early Montanans raced horses, mules, livestock and sometime wild animals. The fleetest a foot humans often sprinted from one business down the street to another business.

Sports were done just by the men. Women had the roll of fan and nurse. Many of the rodeo and racing games were for pride and posturing for that special woman's attention.

Team sports were generally baseball, baseball and baseball!! Local teams were promoted by area towns, mines and clubs. Baseball at the turn of the century was the American pastime. They called the batter a "striker". In 1900, there was a professional baseball league in Montana. Naturally called the Montana State League. The competing teams were the Anaconda Serpents, Butte Smoke Eaters, Great Falls Indians and the Helena Senators. In a book about early Montana history, James A. Scott writes about that league ... " If it don't end in bloodshed ... "

Baseball games also were one of the social and sporting events in the Madison County. Jeffers, Sheridan, Ennis, Alder, Laurin, Twin Bridges, Pony, Harrison, McAllister and Virginia City all fielded teams at the turn of the century. In the Jeffers area, games were played at the Mitchell Field, on land owned by William and his son, Bert Mitchell. The early baseball team of the area was called the Madison Valley Antelopes. They were coached by Dr. Marquis. Some of the players were Bing Ellinghouse, Fay Jeffers and Paul Jeffers. Bing Ellinghouse eventually turned professional. 3

News from the Madison about baseball included: **1904** V.C. 11, Antelopes 10 On the afternoon of July 4th, the Virginia City baseball team beat the Madison Valley Antelopes by a run earned when Jack Whelin stole home base in the 9th inning to end the game.

**1911-1914** Professional Union League: Teams were Ogden, Missoula, Boise, Helena, Great Falls, and Butte.

**1930** The Ennis Baseball team beat Virginia City 15-12 at Ennis in a five inning game on May 29th. Vernon Estes, Catcher, Elwin Grady, Pitcher, Romey Wiles, 2nd base, Ernie Erickson, Short Stop, Dallas Estes, Right Field, Ken Martin, Left Field and Chester Schendel, Center Field made up the team and all were from the Jeffers area. In August 1931 the Ennis Baseball team was crowned Madison County Champions. Jeffers players included Ted Martin, Ed Caddell, Mal Estes and Halbe Pasley.

History repeats itself and the 2012 Ennis baseball team is now called the Pronghorns.

### **CHILD OF STERLING CITY-LILLIE AIMIE RANDALL (STOREY) FROM STERLING TO BEAR CREEK**

Sterling City and the Hot Springs Mining district ... the excellent and detailed historical analyses by Jeffrey Safford have expanded our knowledge and piqued our interest. History, being necessarily based on existing records, often has a focus on males, so we have decided to write here what we know of a girl child born in Sterling who became a pillar of the Madison Valley Community--and our great grandmother--Lillie Aimie Randall Storey. By Maureen Cheney Curnow, Karen Cheney Shores, Larry Cheney-- from sources listed below and often written by Roberta Cakeek Cheney-- granddaughter of Lillie Storey.

Lillie Aimie Randall was born in Sterling City on January 25, 1868.

Her father, Henry R. (Harry) Randall, was born in 1835 and had been "reading" Law in Providence, Rhode Island before he came West prior to 1865. Lillie Randall's mother, Sarah Ann (Sally) Hudson was born in 1835 In Warrensburg, Kentucky, but her family soon moved to Missouri. The Hudsons came West overland on a covered wagon train from St. Louis to Bozeman in 1863 or 1865--she told of hearing the news of Abraham Lincoln's assassination (1864) as they were en route. The Hudsons lived briefly in Bannack and were neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Plummer. The Hudsons soon moved to Virginia City where Sarah met and married Harry Randall in an Episcopal service January 22, 1867. Their twins, Albert Randall and Alice Randall (Mrs. Sam Bell) were born in Virginia City, but the family soon moved to Sterling where their daughter Lillie was born.

The Randalls left Sterling (cont on pg 4)

and moved to a farmstead in the Gallatin Valley where they raised wheat. Harry died there on February 10, 1877 at the age of 42 when Lillie was only nine years old.

After the death of Harry Randall, Sarah married Henry McIntosh who had been doing carpentry work at their ranch in the Gallatin Valley. She gave birth to three more children. The McIntoshes returned to the Madison Valley, settling on a place called the Varney Ranch. They then moved to Dillon where they separated. Sarah remained there and managed to send her two younger children to the Normal School there.

Lillie Aimie Randall was a child of Sterling and her earliest years were spent there amongst the many buildings, stores and mines. She moved to the Gallatin Valley with her family, but her father soon died. As she told her daughter Pearl Storey Carkeek and granddaughter, Roberta Carkeek Cheney, there was trouble with her stepfather, so Lillie's mother took her to Virginia City to live with the Farrel family where she could go to school. At this young age, she worked for her board and room and went to school for two years. She then lived with the Moritz family until her marriage. At age fifteen, on December 15, 1882, she married Amos Storey at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Amos was a thirty year old who had been raised in Huntingdonshire, England and educated in Anglican Schools. He came to the United States at age eighteen, and in 1877 he had filed on a homestead on Bear Creek under the 1862 federal Homestead Act, receiving 160 acres for a filing fee of \$26-34. After six months of residency they paid the \$1.25 per acre and had clear title to the land. They filed for a "Tree Claim" of 160 acres under the Timber Culture Act of 1873. Lillie Storey, herself, proved up on a "Desert Claim" of 80 acres on Bear Creek which she later deeded to her daughter, Pearl Storey Carkeek. Lillie and Amos amassed a cattle ranch of some 2,000 acres, with extensive water rights on Bear Creek and Burger Creek. Amos and Lillie had 6 children. The boys were expected to become ranchers, but Lillie made certain that her daughters were well educated. Bessie studied at the Normal College in Dillon and Pearl at the Business Department in Bozeman at Montana Agricultural College (now MSU).

Lillie Storey's gracious two-story frame home was the center of their community as it included grassy tennis courts. Lillie made certain that the Storey children and grandchildren had a good life of work and fun. She organized games-checkers, Parcheesi, Carom, but they were not allowed to play with "real cards" as Mr. Storey thought they were evil. There were camping trips, sleigh rides, dances, taffy pulls, swings in the apple orchard and great celebrations at Christmas organized by Lillie Storey. Religion was important, and the children were warned that if they ate a bite before the

grace was recited, the devil would cause them to choke!

Dentists, doctors, peddlars, clergy and hide buyers would stay and work there when they came to the valley. The dentist set up his foot-powered chair in the parlor. Lillie sewed extensively and had young girls who helped her with the cooking and housework. She became known to have a "way with the sick" and was frequently called for medical situations. The Shoshone neighbors depended on her for steaming coffee and white blankets when they were about to give birth. Lillie delivered 51 babies. One year she delivered premature twins, so she wrapped them in flannel diapers and put them in a boot box with quart jars full of hot water which she alternately placed next to the car motor and the babies' boxes, thus keeping them warm until they were out of danger.

At one time Lillie Storey returned to Rhode Island to visit her Randall relatives and then met Amos in St. Louis at the World's Fair of 1904. They finally spent a winter in Long Beach, California and one in Burbank California--quite a long ways from her simple girlhood in Sterling.

At the death of Amos Storey in 1923, Lillie maintained the ranch, working with her children. She carefully and fairly divided all their lands, water rights, cattle amongst her five living children, and her will was skillfully and carefully drawn. She finally moved to Bozeman where she bought a house so that her granddaughter, Roberta Carkeek (later Cheney) and many other young girls from the Madison Valley could come there for high school education. She died in Bozeman January 25, 1929 at the age of 61. Lillie Aimie Randall Storey was a vibrant, active, creative, self-directed woman whose childhood in Sterling formed a solid basis for her strengths.

SOURCES: Oral descriptions by Pearl Storey Carkeek and Roberta Carkeek Cheney. Roberta Carkeek Cheney. STOREYS AND CARKEEKS: SPANNING 20TH CENTURY Montana. Missoula, Mt. 1995. Roberta Carkeek Cheney, Maureen Cheney Curnow. LILLIE STOREY (March 24, 2005) Series: "A Tribute to Women in Montana's History," The Missoulian Daily Newspaper. PROGRESSIVE MEN OF MONTANA. Chicago: A.W. Bowen & Co., no date. PIONEER TRAILS AND TRIALS MADISON COUNTY 1863-1920. Vol. I Madison County History Association. Great Falls, MT: Blue Print & letter Co., 1976. PROGRESSIVE YEARS MADISON COUNTY 1920-1950, Vol. II Madison County History Association. Butte, Mt. Artcraft Printers, 1983.

History Tidbit Settlement on Jack Creek put in Telephone system and made connection with Central. Bear Creek settlement working on it's line. When it is finished, the entire valley will have telephone service. *Times* July 10, 1903

## Thomas Hughes' Diary

MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with an electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past, this, and future issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010, second in Jan. 2011, third in April 2011, fourth in August 2011, fifth in October 2011, sixth in January 2012 seventh in April 2012. If you have missed the first 7 installments check the web site or request a copy of the previous 7 issues. **DAD'S Diary** submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes.

Continued from *April Wagon Tongue* ending Wed, May 30

### Thur May 31

Nothing doing yet. Heard from Guy. Helps like hell. Guess Ed and Will have quit me. Got a picture of Ira and Dad yesterday. No change except Ira's mustache helps his looks considerable. Forgot to say that I had to shave my egregious hirsute off! Put my horse to a great disadvantage in the wind.

**Fri June 1st** No entry

**Sat 2nd** No entry

**Sun June 3rd** No entry

**Mon June 4th** No entry

**Fri June 5th** This is the day Edith and Billy Fletcher get married. Would be glad to see it if I weren't so sorry for Jim. **Wed June 6th. 1905**

June 6th is the last entry in the 2 booklet diary about the trip south that began in 1904. Some miscellaneous lists concerning various expenses while in California are in the final pages of the 2nd booklet. (See the Addendum at the end of this account) In addition to the diary booklets, a small black journal (noted in the foreword) contains notations pertaining to various expenses, work records, and miscellaneous things which he wished to remember. Diary entries for May 8, May 15, May 17, all indicate that work for Mr. Boyce was a possibility. Subsequent time records in the black journal indicate employment by C. E. Boyce at \$40.00 per mo. beginning July 18th, 1905, and continuing part time through December. Entries in the journal, in October and November, pertain to money and articles received from C. E. Boyce. An entry dated Jan 19th indicates he is still in Arizona but no record is found of exactly when he went home to Montana. These black journal entries do establish that he remained in Arizona throughout the remainder of 1905 and was there in January 1906. It seems logical that they waited for warmer weather before heading for Montana and a subsequent trip, in July, to retrieve horses and gear left in Idaho.

Returning From Arizona

Information from Lenny Gibson spells out a likely scenario for the trip back to Montana. Lenny remembers having heard stories about the two traveling cowboys making their way north by working at various mines and ranches. Also that Dad was booked on one occasion, somewhere in Colorado, in a prize fighting event which was cancelled because his opponent

never showed up. The promoter for the fight was supposedly the same person who promoted Jack Dempsey a few years later. Lenny also said that Army Adams stayed in Telluride, Colorado, and eventually became a mine foreman. This has a possible corroboration in the form of two manuscripts (western stories) written by Army Adams, which were found with Dad's original diary notebooks. The heading "Army Adams, Telluride, Colo.", appears on one of the typewritten manuscripts. I remember Dad saying that Army had written western stories. I don't know if any were published. Of note is that the central figure (cowboy hero) in the manuscript stories was a "Thomas Hughes".

### TRIP TO IDAHO TO RECOVER HORSES AND GEAR

(From June 26th to July 13th, 1906)

This is another diary type account, handwritten in pencil on tablet type ruled paper. Curled and yellow with age, but still legible.

**Tuesday, June 26th** Meadow Ck.

Ed and I started up Madison R. with team (destination unknown) Camped on Indian Ck. broke King bolt on wagon.

**Wednesday 27th**

Repaired wagon. Crossed steel bridge about 4 o'clock and camped one mile above. Have our usual good luck (Rained like hell).

**Thurs. 28th**

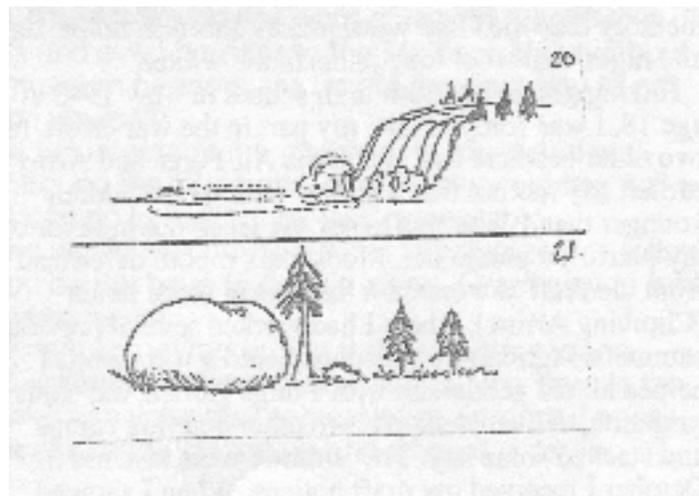
Rained all night Wed. and all day today. Cold and disagreeable. Drove to Henry's Lake by 2 o'clock and camped for the day. Old J. D. Rockefeller is going to shave, has his razor strap tied to his big toe stropping his razor (Great head that.) Will split a rain drop and half each way.

**Friday 29th**

Rather cold today but no rain. Drove from Henry's Lake to 15 miles inside Park. Camped near a small hot spring on Madison R. Had a visitor last night, a skunk came in and helped. The WT will pick up the diary in October 2012 as diary is completed.

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**Montana Trivia** answers to April 2012 #18 Cook City #19 Circle







**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the July issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.

**Ashenurst (Losee), Becky (I)** 250-353-2024  
P.O. Box 1139

Kaslo, B.C. VOG1MO  
**Baur, Vicki & Dick (F)**  
10415 Wadsworth Blvd  
Broomfield, CO 80021

**Doc Ron Losee (I)** 682-4267  
P.O. Box 575  
Ennis, MT 59729

**McCambridge, Liz & Carleton (F)**682-7806  
P.O. Box 167  
McAllister, MT 59740

**McGlashan, Zena Beth (I)** 406-490-9608  
156 W. Granite  
Butte, MT, 59701

**Ross, Shirley & Bob (F)** 682-3172  
862 Bergamo Ave.  
San Jacinto, CO 92583

**Toot, Rick & Cathy (F)** 682-7857  
P.O. Box 1402  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Zahler, Frank (I)** 406-538-3775  
901 5th. Ave. No.  
Lewistown, M t 59457

**Membership Update** 2012 are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2012 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your membership is due during October, November or December or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley.



**Memories**

**Frank Vetter** passed away Sept. 16, 2011. MVHA just learned of his passing on August 2th 2012 after his July 2012 Wagon Tongue was forwarded to his niece's home and she contacted us. The Vetter family was a very notable family in the Madison Valley and from the Trails and Trials, the editor can find Vetter family history but cannot find the descendant line that

to which Frank belongs. Please help so we can remember Frank with some Vetter family history.

**Robert Kenneth "Bob" Lake**, age 80, passed away July 10, 2012 at Madison Valley Medical Center. Bob settled in Ennis in 1980 and he and his late wife, Beverly, managed the Town Pump in Ennis. He then accepted the position of Maintenance Superintendent for the Madison Valley Hospital, clinic and nursing home. He spent the last 18 years working for Shedhorn Sports. *Madisonian* obituary

**Charles Edgmond**, age 100, passed away July 12, 2012 at his home in Great Falls, MT. Charles was retired from the U S Forest Service and worked for the Ennis department for many years. Otis Thompson remembers the Edgmond family who lived near the Thompson's home. Otis's Mom, Maxine, drove "school bus" which actually was just the family car, taking the Thompson children and the Edgmond children, Betty and LeRoy, to school. Otis was only 5 or so and just rode along for each trip not being in school yet. Neil Kent remembers working for Charles and the Forest Service in the Gravely Range for a couple summers while he went to college. *G.F.Tribune* obituary

**Esther V. Marzullo**, age 94, passed away July 12, 2012, at Madison Valley Manor. She was born in Wisconsin in 1918 and there is no history of what brought Esther to Ennis but she was a member of the Madison Valley Woman's Club and volunteered at the Nearly New Shoppe for the past 10 years. The Wagon Tongue editor's greatest memory of Esther was when she volunteered to run as president of the Woman's Club and unfortunately she could not be president as she was an honorary member (age 80 or older) and thus not eligible to be an officer. She is remembered as a very determined woman and a very hard worker. *Madisonian* obituary

**Emery Smith**, age 70, of Dillon passed away Sept. 12, 2012. He was born in Butte to Dora Nelson Smith and Emery Keller Smith on Sept. 18, 1941. He graduated from Beaverhead County High School, served in the Air Force, graduated from Western Montana College, taught in Gardiner and then worked for the Madison County Welfare Department for 30 years, many of those as director. He is survived by wife, Sally Williams (Coad) Smith who is a long time MVHA member. *Madisonian* obituary

**Harry Townshend** passed away July 28, 2012 at the age of 92. He was a Montana and Ennis summer resident since 1963 when he and Deb acquired the Beaverhead Ranch, an old homestead in the Beaverhead National Forest along the West Fork of the Madison River. Folks in Ennis will remember Harry for his fishing skills. Harry tied his own flies until well into his 80's and took his last cast on Hebgen at the age of 91. Many will remember Harry for his special old 'fishing' hat. Harry and Deb are very supportive of the MVHA in many ways and donated a 1902 Studebaker carriage to the museum. The MVHA displays this carriage very proudly and really appreciates the donation of this piece of history.

**Memories** *continued from page 2*

**John David Clark**, age 54 passed away on July 30, 2012. John was born Nov. 21, 1957 at the Ennis hospital. He attended high school in Bozeman but returned to Ennis and worked at the talc mine for the past 35 years. He served his community by serving on the Ennis City Council, was past member and current board member of the Ennis Ambulance Service. He was Mayor of Ennis at the time of his passing. *Madisonian* Obit

**Robert Roy Hughes**, age 97 passed away in Enumclaw, Wash on July 31, 2012. He was born on Jan. 4, 1915 in McAllister, Mt. to Thomas and Emily (Mackel) Hughes. Bob was an entrepreneur and an inventor. He was also a computer whiz and his knowledge will be missed. The activity he enjoyed the most during the last 10 years was walking on the Foothills Trail with his dog Lindy. The MVHA also knows that he was very much interested in his family's past and helped research and print, with the help of nephew, Dave, the Meadow Creek History: 100 Years Ago and Now (Feb 2010) and also submitted the diary of Thomas Hughes, his father, to the Wagon Tongue to be printed. The editor only wishes that Robert could have lived just a little while longer to see the final chapter of the diary printed in this issue.

Robert also supported the MVHA in many ways including selling raffle tickets on a Madison Valley Quilt that was being raffled as a fundraiser for the museum. Robert was the lucky winner at a drawing at the last Ennis School Reunion and so generously donated the beautiful quilt back to the MVHA to display in the museum. His mission was to preserve and share the history of the Madison Valley. Enumclaw Newspaper

**Joe Manning** passed away at his home in California on August 17, 2012. Joe started hunting the area surrounding the Madison Valley in the '60's and moved his family to Ennis in 1978 when he opened Joe's Cenex Service where Deemo's Meats (formerly Restvedt Meats) is now located. He was active in the Ennis Chamber, St. Patrick's Church and Virginia City Elks. He was instrumental in getting the Hunter's Feed in Ennis started. Joe had to leave Montana in 1986 for health reasons. *Madisonian* obituary

**Gerherd (Casey) Lear** passed away Aug. 21, 2012 at the Madison Valley Medical Center. He was born in Sidney, OH and while in high school, he came West and worked at the Diamond J Guest Ranch during the summers of 1965-66. He fell in love with Montana, attended Montana State University studying graphic design and was a member of the track team. After a career in graphic design he returned to Ennis in 1999 where he worked as a seasonal trail guide at the Diamond J and volunteered as a timer and statistician for MSU track meets. He owned and operated Moto Pro, a small engine business at the time of his passing. *Madisonian* obituary

Renowned artist, **Larry Zabel**, age 82, passed away Sept. 11, 2012 at his home up North Meadow Creek near McAllister. He was born Jan. 19, 1930 at Deer Creek, Minn to Esther and X.Y. Zabel. His early years were spent on a farm near Deer Creek and he

attended a one room country school. His mother was an accomplished artist and encouraged Larry to draw and paint from an early age. In 1938, the family moved to California where Larry attended school and graduated from high school in 1947. From an early age, Larry wanted to be a cowboy painter. The path to realizing his dream took him to the Navy, then to further his education at several colleges, graduating from Long Beach State and then to numerous companies where he worked in many aspects including as an illustrator and a writer and he continued to paint. He went back to the Navy to produce documentaries and illustrations. The Navy knew his skill as a painter and sent him on four tours of Vietnam as a combat painter. After retiring from the Navy, he moved to Montana in 1987 to follow his dream of being a western painter. "It was too late to be a real cowboy but it wasn't too late to be a reporter for the cowboy" he said. He was always genuine and generous and he used his artwork to promote many causes--including the MVHA. Larry's sister is Beverly Claassen, long time MVHA member. *Madisonian* Obituary and Greg Lemon's "Zabel will be remembered as legendary painter and friend."

**Sarah Smith**, formerly of McAllister, passed away Sept. 29, 2012 at her home in Manhattan. She was born on Dec. 19, 1920 to Fred and Martha Mize at Salt Lake City, Utah. She moved to Bozeman at age of 4 where she was raised and educated. She met and married Lloyd Smith of Conrad on Oct. 28, 1940. Lloyd worked for area ranches most of the time. He drove school bus for the 1949-50 school year. He worked on the Ennis Grade school and for the talc mine. Then went to work on the county road crew for almost 15 years. Lloyd decided it was time for a job change so bid on the U. S. mail route from Butte to Ennis, received the contract and started in 1968, Lloyd and Sarah moved to Butte at that time. Sarah remained in Butte most of the mail route years, maintaining a home for Lloyd and family. Sewing occupied a great deal of time along with being a mother to three children, Sally Gene, Lloyd Jr "Sunny" and Jerry Lee. The mail route ended in 1980 and Sarah and Lloyd moved back to their McAllister home near Ennis Lake. From there they moved to Manhattan where Sarah lived until her passing. She is daughter-in-law to Jan Smith (Sunny) long time MVHA member.

*Madisonian* Obituary and Progressive Years p 697-698.

Any memories and stories of Madison Valley's departed folks are welcomed by the *Wagon Tongue* for printing in future editions. Their stories are the history of this valley.

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From *Madisonian* Friday, October 7, 1938

**Federated Woman's Clubs Meet At Ennis Saturday**  
Election of Officers to be Feature of Business Session  
Ennis, Oct. 7-Madison County Federation of Woman's clubs will meet in semi-annual session at Ennis tomorrow as guests of the Madison Valley Woman's club. The meeting will open at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the high school gymnasium with Mrs. Flora N. McNulty of Sheridan, Federation president, presiding.

**Federated Woman's Clubs** *continued from pg 3*

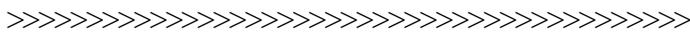
The meeting will be the occasion for the annual election of officers, and will be attended by delegates and members of the Virginia City Woman's Club, Sheridan Woman's Club, Twin Bridges Woman's Club, Harrison Woman's Club, Cardwell Country Club, Pony Woman's Club, Ruby Valley Home Demonstration Club of Alder and the Madison Valley Woman's Club, all members of the county organization.

The meeting will open with the call to order by President McNulty; invocation by the Rev. Harold Wilson; song "America the Beautiful" with piano accompaniment by Dr. Mae Pankey; address of welcome by Mrs. E. E. Olson, president of the Madison Valley Woman's club; response by Mrs. Norma Carmin of Pony, followed by a business session including the President's address, reports of standing committees and chairmen of all departments.

Luncheon will be served by the Ladies Aid at the Methodist Church at 50 cents per plate.

The afternoon session will open at 1:30 o'clock and will include a song by the assembly; vocal solo by George Alger; tap dance by Marian McAllister; song by the Girl's Octet; address by Mr. Fred Brown of Bozeman; election of officers and benediction by Mrs. George L. Johns of Cardwell.

Nominees for county office in the coming election are welcome to attend the meeting and speak if they so desired.



**Thomas Hughes' Diary**

MVHA member Robert Hughes has provided the WT with an electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31, 1904 to early 1906. This diary has been reprinted in past issues of the WT. First part was in Oct. 2010, second in Jan. 2011, third in April 2011, fourth in August 2011 fifth in October 2011, sixth in January 2012 seventh in April 2012, eighth in July 2012 and now the final installment in this issue. If you have missed the first 8 installments check the history web site: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org) or request a copy of the previous 8 issues.

Robert Hughes passed away July 31, 2012 and please read his memory on page 3 of the Wagon Tongue.

**DAD'S Diary** submitted by R R (Bob) Hughes.

Continued from July Wagon Tongue ending Thursday June 28th. (Editor's note. Part of Fri, June 29 after the skunk was left out so will continue with Friday, June 29)

**Friday 29th**

Rather cold today but no rain. Drove from Henry's Lake to 15 miles inside Park. Camped near a small hot spring on Madison R. Had a visitor last night, a skunk came in and helped himself to our bread. We treated him very politely and when he was through, politely showed him the door. I don't think Uncle can kick on that kind of treatment to his animals.

**Sat. 30th**

Drove up Gibbons R. to Yellowstone Canyon

and camped about 4 o'clock.

We passed several of the wonders of the Park today. First of any note was the Beryl Hot Sp., a boiling spring about 20 ft in diam. We were driving by rapids all day. The Virginia Cascades were about the prettiest. The water runs over rocks of all colors. Next was a small geyser (Minute Man) plays every minute but only about 3 ft high, and just to one side about 100 ft was an old extinct geyser, the Monarch, and between the two was small pools of hot water of different colors, blue, white, green and some muddy. Not much of anything grows around very close, seems to be a lime formation. Then we crossed over a small hill into Norris Basin. This basin seems to be full of extinct geysers. There is one there that sounds like a big boiler blowing off steam. The (?) pool is here too, a round pool full of boiling water. The crust around here seems to be thin, have boards laid down to walk on as there is danger of breaking through. Lord knows where a man would go. Have been passing queer formations all day. Drove up grade all day until we reached an elevation of over 8700 ft then came to the Yellowstone Canyon. Saw quite a herd of deer. 8 head. 3 bucks and 5 does. The weather has been fine today, in keeping with the scenery which can't be beaten anywhere. Just think of it, boiling springs of all colors, high mts., deep canyons, rapids, water slides, Geysers, formations of all kinds and colors, pretty streams, Parks, lakes. Some of the finest mineral and fresh water springs. Wild animals, birds of all kinds, water falls all in a days drive. Words can't express the sights. It is one continual round of pleasure, a person would want to live always if he could live in this place.

**July 1st, Saturday**

Left Yellowstone Canyon at noon, drove to Yellowstone Lake and camped. Past mud geyser. Geysers are about all alike, when you have seen one you have seen them all. Camped with Shorty Althouse at Canyon. Bear tore end out of his wagon cover looking for grub. Saw several elk today. Met a fellow from Seattle had quite a chat. He was touring Park on wheel, complained of his wind being short, didn't know whether was attitude or the beer. Ed sleeps with the ax now, says the first bear that comes prowling around gets the ax bounced off his head. Saw my first beaver today. Saw a big bald eagle dive into the Y. River and pull out a fish nearly all he could carry.

**Monday July 2nd**

Left Yellowstone Lake this morning, that is we broke camp on Lake and traveled along lake all forenoon. Saw the natural bridge, a regular stone arch. More hot springs and what they call the paint pots. Came on to Lewis Lake, close to the south pass over the range. This is our last night in the Park. Will be down around Jackson Lake tomorrow night. Missed lots of the Park as it would take us some 60 miles out of our road. Horses looking fine, better than when we started. Act like wild broncos every time we pass any one on the road. Made nearly 200 miles and laid over nearly all of one day.

**Hughes Diary**      *continued from pg 4*

**Tuesday 3rd**

Broke camp on Lewis Lake, traveled down Lewis River. The Moose Falls on the Lewis R. are pretty nice only fall about 40 ft. though. Come on into Jackson Hole. Some of the nicest scenery here we have come across. Good grass and some of the prettiest Parks. City park ain't in it. Fine stock country if a person could set a hold of it. But is a state game preserve. Came on to Jackson Lake, don't think much of the country around here. The blooming mosquitoes are about to eat us up. There is a government contractor here getting out timber for the Reservoir. For the Minadoka country, Idaho.

**Wed 4th**

Broke camp on Jackson Lake. Spent the glorious fourth on the road. Between the roads and the mosquitoes spent the most glorious fourth of my life. Stopped at the Elkhorn Ranch about noon, a general supply store, tourist and camp outfitters without a damn thing except a little bacon and baking powder. I think he had his sign up so you would come in and look at his picket fence made from elk horns. It was fancy. Came on down the Snake, struck some pretty rough roads and poorer country. There was one ranch 40 miles from nowhere. A man and his wife, a dog and 3 hogs was all I saw here. How a man could persuade a woman to come in there is beyond me. If I had his persuasive powers I wouldn't do my own cooking very long.

The dog was fat, slick and contented looking but the pigs showed the effects of strenuous life. They were out tearing up the earth where a steel pointed plow wouldn't last 15 minutes. Came on and struck one alfiredest(?) hills I ever saw. The horses were straight up over us. If they had started a rock it would have dropped into the wagon. Some fine bench land on top but no water. Saw herd of antelope. They ran so fast that when the vacuum(?) closed behind them it fairly cracked. Camped on a little stream, the only one in 15 mile. Some fine farm land here. It is a forest Reserve. Just thrown open for settlement. Several parties could go in together and build a company ditch from the Grovant R. Finest grazing country in here I ever saw. This is on the east side of the Snake R. below Jackson Lake. Camp on Antelope Springs.

**Thursday 5th**

Broke camp on Antelope Springs. Came on down the Snake R. about 15 miles, crossed on Ferry to west side. Went as far as Wilson and camped. Crossed some of the \_\_\_\_\_ country. Forded 77 times in 3 miles. Water ran into wagon bed. Water ran so swift almost took the horses off their feet, banks straight up for about 4 ft. We drive up to the banks until the wheels touch, step off on shore and drive up. When a man breaks down here he hangs the wreckage upon a limb of a tree as a warning to the next.

**Friday 6th**

Broke camp above Wilson crossed the Teton Pass and she is a corker. Altitude 8492 The people tell us the roads were pretty good. I think so nit. They say the road to hell is rough, but it is smooth sledding besides this. 5

Rock, ruts, roots, logs, bog holes, water \_\_\_\_\_ (?) and every \_\_\_\_\_ thing. We got through it alive without accidents, save an occasional scare. (The devil takes care of his own). There was wreckage of all kinds along here, ways, sleds, spring wagon, and the top off of a camp wagon.(?) little way. Everybody in this country seems to live in a covered wagon about half of the time. The only way to tell if a man is at home is by his covered wagon. If it is in the yard he is at home. Came on into Idaho, camped north of Victor about 2 miles. Are about to the end of the world now, barren blasted country, no feed nor nothing.

**Sat 7th**

Broke camp above Victor about 10 o'clock. Came north up the Teton Valley through Driggs and another little town and camped on the Teton R. Nice laying country but soil don't amount to much, gravelly and takes lots of water which they have plenty of. Crops late but don't know if they ever amount to much or not.

**Sunday 8th**

Came north and West from Teton R. through steep country feed though but a scarcity of water further west through farming country. Lots of ground just taken up. Came on through Teton City and Sugar City. Fine farming country no open ground here. Raise grain, hay and beets for sugar factory. We got bogged between Sugar City and Rexburg, got horse down. Had to borrow double trees to pull out with. Hard(?) country in through here to travel. No wood and no grazing. Borrowed some alfalfa to feed with. More mosquitoes here than would patch h\_\_l a mile.

**Monday 9th** Broke camp about 6 o'clock and drove within about 7 miles of Idaho Falls. Another poor camp, some feed but no wood, and use ditch water. This whole country is full of canals taken from the Snake R. Same as yesterday, farming.

**Tuesday 10th**

Through some good country. Mormon settlement around Blackfoot. Camped 4 miles north of Blackfoot.

**Wednesday 11th**

From Blackfoot to Pocatello Desert and Indian Reserve. 7 miles of the worst sand in the state just outside of Fort Hall at Ross Fork. Fine looking Indians here. Camped 1 1/2 east of Pocatello.

**Thursday 12th and Friday 13th** ( ed note July 1906)

Broke camp below McCammon and drove through hell and Mormons and camped somewhere near Swan Lake. Fine country here but the (*too faded out to read*) have monopoly on the whole damn country, only one lane and....

*(Unfortunately the rest of this diary has been lost as the page ends without the sentence or thought being completed. There were obviously more pages written but they have not been found.)*

END OF HANDWRITTEN DIARY ACCOUNTS

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A Big Thank You to the Robert Hughes and his family for sharing this diary. Wouldn't it be great if we all left some account of part of our lives for history?



# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 11 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

January 2013

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**From the Wagon Seat- President Don Black:** As we begin the New Year - 2013, the MVHA can look back on a little history of it's own. The board and membership have moved forward to provide the communities in the Madison Valley, our friends in many other places and YOU, the ability to enjoy our heritage fully. The MVHA has an updated website, a face book page, email announcements and postings, CD and DVD copies of our monthly programs, colored printed posters for the local community, research requests on line and plus state wide news of our special events. Access to the Museum has never been better. We also have enjoyed support from the Ennis Chamber of Commerce, the Madisonian and it's Outpost Events publications, the First Madison Valley Bank for board and membership meeting rooms and of course the regular printing of the Wagon Tongue.

My goal this year is to fully utilize our talents. In reality we enjoy three MVHA presidents on the board. Leadership from our past presidents Larry Love and Otis Thompson makes my responsibilities possible in fulfilling our mission. I love history and am eager to preserve that heritage.

My thanks go to Shirley Love who has joined us on the board, Liz Applegate who has actively promoted the MVHA, David Hoag who has accepted the duties of secretary and Kevin Brenneke who has accepted the position of treasurer.

Programs of recent months featured; October- Lemon Live with Greg Lemon editor of the Madisonian. November- Mining Life and Miners by Tom Satterly of Dillon, December – Annual Christmas Program and Dinner with Father Keith Axberg of Trinity Church – Jeffers and for January – The History of the Bear Creek School with Mona Durham and Karen Shores.

Donations, memorials, volunteer services, fund raisers and contributions from our loyal friends have made us richer in those things. Spread the word and invite someone special to join us at the MVHA.

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**The Wagon Tongue is 10 years old!!**

Volume I issue 1 was published in January, 2003. It has had 4 issues published quarterly since that time. It was devised as a way to make a contact with all of the MVHA members who faithfully buy a membership each year and support the mission of the MVHA. Many live away from the Madison Valley and cannot attend the monthly programs and events.

Smitty Overstreet, who was instrumental in starting the MVHA in 1998, came up with the name-Wagon Tongue- based on our theme and logo of wagon trains of early poneers and freighting starting the settlement of the Madison Valley. It is also a "play on words" of "waggin' tongue" or gossip sheet and the MVHA hopes that you have enjoyed and appreciated all the "gossip" and historical information that has been published over the last 10 years.

Many thanks to our members who have provided articles, trivia, tidbits, memories and suggestions. And special thanks to all those people ahead of us who wrote diaries and written accounts to preserve history. The Wagon Tongue could not be published without all that help.

And as the Wogon Tongue heads into the 11th year and hopefully many more, keep the "wagons rolling" and don't forget to write your own stories and preserve all the history.

The Wagon Tongue issues are all available on the website listed at the top of the page. Copies for in library reading are also available at the Madison Valley Public Library and at the Museum during open hours in June through September. Paper copies of back issues are available upon request for 25 cents per page for printing and 46 cents per issue for mailing.

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**Memorials** During 2012 memorials were given in memory of Dicky Noack, Pat Gustafson, Robin Shipman and Harry Townshend. Memorials are a great way to honor your family and other loved ones and also helps the MVHA to continue the work of preserving the history of the Madison Valley. Thank you.

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**History Tidbit:** William Ennis built a cabin near the Madison River the same year as Quantrill's Raiders terrorized the South in the Civil War.

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the October issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping.

**Anderson(Smith) Jennifer&** 406-539-7386

**David(Snuffy) Smith(F)**

402 E. Granite Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**Axberg, Keith (I)** 406-600-1128(cell)

P.O. Box 629  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Boyd, Lem & Linda (F)** 682-3285

196 Hayfield Loop Rd  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Dale, John & Bridget(F)** 406-596-1039

P.O. Box 425  
McAllister, MT 59740

**Hinman Robert & Marilyn (F)**

4161 Glenwood  
Irvine, CA 92604

**Storey, Ann (I)**

2650 West Superstition Blvd. sp 39  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

**Welch, Jerry (I)** 682-5010

152 Ennis Lake Rd  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Membership Update** 2012 memberships are now past due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2012 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during January, February or March or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip with in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Memories**

**REMEMBERING FRANK O. VETTER**

Frank Omar Vetter was a generous man and was a long time member of the M V H A. He was sent his 10 year member certificate but did not receive it before his passing. His contributions were numerous and his life experiences can be shared by us all. Frank O.Vetter was born in 1924 at Varney, Montana to parents George O. Vetter and Elizabeth Elvira "Lizzie" Daems. He 2

was the youngest of twelve children. Frank's father came to Montana from Warren, Ohio and his mother was born at Varney of the Madison Valley. John G. Vetter was Frank's grandfather as well as a Montana Territory pioneer boot maker of Virginia City. Dr. Levinus Daems was Lizzie's grandfather and the noted pioneer physician of the territory as well. Both families flourished in the Madison Valley and Madison County.

At the age of twenty(1944), Frank Vetter enlisted in the U.S. Navy and had a distinguished record serving on the Essex aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. He was proud to be a veteran. In 1952, Frank Vetter married Ann Spaziano in Rhode Island. The couple resided in Washington State, mostly in Bellevue. Their only son was Van Morgan Vetter who died in infancy in 1957. The Vettters were horse lovers and a family photo shows the couple at Churchill Downs of the Kentucky Derby. Frank also bragged about his uncle Bert Vetter who was a famed Montana bronc rider hailing from the Madison Valley.

History, family and heritage were Frank Vetter's passions. He eagerly contributed to the MVHA Varney Condensed History book and compiled an extensive genealogy of his relatives plus their pictures. Some of those families include the Vetter, Daems, Spray, McGuire, Ritchie, Dunn, Paugh and Hungerford, names all well known. Ken Card, Frank's nephew, recently shared his Frank Vetter collection of several hundred pages with the MVHA. In addition Frank published those histories on line to remember his family. We thank Mr. Vetter for preserving our history and heritage. Frank O. Vetter passed away in September 16, 2011 and is survived by his wife Ann Vetter. Memorials can be sent to the MVHA in his name.

*Memory submitted by Don Black, MVHA Historian*  
**Marcella O. Tart** passed away Oct. 7, 2012 in Ennis. She was born May 18, 1924 at Oakwood, North Dakota to Oswald and Delia (Chale) Faille. She was raised in Grafton, N. D. and after graduating from high school moved to St. Paul, Minn. She married Lambert Tart in 1952 in St. Paul. In 1972 they moved to the Madison Valley.

Marcella worked at the Madison Valley Manor as a bookkeeper. She served as the president of the Madison Valley Woman's Club, was a trustee of the Madison Valley Public Library Board, and worked at the Nearly New Shop. She also served as a city council member in Ennis for seven years and was a devoted member of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

**Robert(Bob) W. Reilly** passed away on October 21, 2012. He was born July 8, 1938 near Hereford, Ore. to Charles and Hazel (Hartz) Reilly. He married Nora O'Connell in June of 1958. In 1971 he and a friend decided they would like to run a bar in Montana and the family moved to Ennis to run the Longbranch Saloon. The family stayed in Ennis for 8 years before returning to Washington State and Bob resumed his career at Boeing Company. In 2010, after Nora had passed away in 1999, Bob moved back to be close to his family.

**(cont. on page 3)**

**Memories cont. from pg. 2**

**Maxine Croy** passed away on Oct. 21, 2012. She was born on Jan 20, 1931 in Happy Corner, Kentucky. They later moved to Ohio where Maxine attended school. She married Bill Dutiel and they were happily married for 10 years until Bill's passing. Maxine and Bill had met Holly and Flo Croy in Minnesota in 1963. Bill and Flo both died in May of 1963.

In November of 1963, Maxine married Holly Dean Croy. Holly's 13 children welcomed Maxine and her three children to a ranch in Ekalaka, MT. Maxine and Holly had five more children for a total of 21. They moved to Ennis and 1968 and continued ranching until Holly died in 1991.

**Wilbur Frisbie** passed away Nov. 2, 2012 after a short illness at the Billings Clinic. He was born on Aug. 21, 1954 in Ennis to Alden and Ione Frisbie. He grew up on the family ranch at McAllister, graduated from Ennis High School and worked on various ranches in the Madison Valley. Most recently he was hauling cattle for Ferguson Cattle Company of Bozeman.

**Ramon "Ray" John Jones** passed away Nov. 14, 2012 in Anacortes, WA. He was the son of William and Theresa (Imel) Jones, born May 3, 1932 in Ennis. Ray attended school in McAllister and Ennis and was on the Ennis High School basketball team. In 1952 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After returning from Korea, Ray returned briefly to Montana and then relocated to Washington State where he lived until his death.

**Peter T. Combs**, long time MVHA member, passed away in Ennis on Dec. 1, 2012, just shy of his 85th birthday. Peter T. was born in 1928 in Santa Ana, Calif. to Walter and Dorothy Combs. At age 17 he joined the Navy. Between serving in two wars, he attended California Maritime Academy earning a degree in civil engineering. In 1950 Peter married Virginia (Ginny) Beardsley. In 1960 Peter and Ginny moved their family from California to the Diamond J. Ranch, up Jack Creek, near Ennis. Guest ranching was to be the first of many entrepreneurial pursuits and he had many irons in the fire to include cattle ranching, banking and town grocer.

**Schendel, Joy (Bates)** long time MVHA member passed away at the Madison Valley Manor on Jan. 2, 2013. Memory will be published in the April *Wagon Tongue*.

Memories are excerpted *Madisonian* Obituaries and the book Progressive Years

Any memories and stories of Madison Valley's departed folks is welcomed by the *Wagon Tongue* for printing in future editions . Their stories are the history of this valley.

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**MVHA Member News**

**Ethelyn and Gene Hanni**, long time MVHA members, were featured in the *Madisonian LifeStyle* section of Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012.

**Jack and Marjorie Kent**, brother and sister-in-law of long time MVHA member Neil Kent, celebrated **3**

their 50 years of marriage on Nov. 22, 2012, with a celebration planned for spring.

**Lula Wing**, mother of long time MVHA member, Dave Wing, celebrated her 105th birthday on Nov. 23, 2012 at the Madison Valley Manor.

**Chuck Bennetts**, long time MVHA member turned 99 on Dec. 15, 2012.

**Jimmy Carlson**, long time MVHA member and former board member recently retired from NAPA Auto Parts. He worked there for about 9 years. Prior to that he had a shop at the place in McAllister and also worked for M & W in Three Forks. Congratulations, Jimmy.

////////////////////////////////////  
The *Wagon Tongue* recently finished the printing of the **Thomas Hughes** diary which he wrote from Oct. 31, 1904 up to July 12th and 13th, 1906. Unfortunately the rest of the diary had been lost so the we are at the end of that story. But the editor checked in the Madison County Trails and Trials to find out a little more about Thomas Hughes. Thomas Sievers Hughes was born in Searsbore, Iowa on May 15, 1885, the son of J. W. Hughes, a bridge maker. Tom came West at age 16. As a young man, Tom (or T.S.) went briefly to MSU. His expense book in September 1903 listed \$1.75 for board, books and supplies for the business course he had enrolled in, 75 cents for cleaning and having his hair singed and 20 cents for theater.

Tom got the wanderlust: for a trip to St. Paul in 1904, the expense books records most meals and rooms at 20 cents. But when he and his buddy, Army Adams, journeyed to California in 1905 they found it "a most inhospitable place." The two took turns eating whenever they had a dime for a meal. Crackers on the table were a bonanza.

The trip started out in style with three mounts and three pack horses, all green broke. Packing an out-of-season elk killed in Idaho on these broncs gave them trouble. They sold the illegal meat for 50 cents a pound.

When that money ran out, they sold the horses, getting beaten on the deal. On the return trip in March 1906, they worked as bronc twisters for Jake Cauffman at Williams, Arizona. It was probably at this time that Tom and seven other cowboys rode into Santa Fe country to bring back 1500 head of cattle for the boss. Tom broke out about 200 head of horses.

June of 1908 brought Tom to the calmer life of matrimony with his marriage to Emily Mackel at Meadow Creek Post Office, the home of his sister, Florence Gibson. Florence's husband, Guy, and his mother, Ellen opened the first post office for the valley.

The young couple lived in a cabin on Leonard Creek and homesteaded. Tom took any kind of work to support his rapidly growing family. He hauled freight, taking supplies to mines like the Sunnyside and Revenue, returning down the chute-like roads with a load of ore. He ran the Savage grade with six to eight horses and a two ton load, the sled and wagon rough-locked.

One day on the steep Norris hill road, the brake pole snapped. Tom tried to keep his head and **(cont. pg. 4)**

**Thomas Hughes from page 3**

hoped the horses kept their feet. Ahead of him on a slow nag, he saw the rather ladylike figure of his lifelong friend, Deb Stanley. Deb looked back and took in the situation at a glance. Kicking her ancient white horse into a gallop, Deb managed to beat Tom to the bottom of the hill. When the wild, out of control ride came to a halt, the wheel team was under the wagon.

Tom jumped to the ground to rescue them. Luckily they were only scratched and bruised. When Tom told this story, he loved to mimic Deb, pretending to wipe his streaming brow and saying in a squeaky voice, "Well, we made it, Tom!"

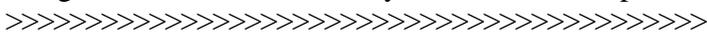
On Sundays baseball was the entertainment after a hard day's work. Tom was a noted pitcher. According to his cousin, Walt Vincent, a game was extended until the following Sunday to allow Tom time to recover from a broken jaw he received from a bad ball.

Tom was also in demand as a fiddler for the Saturday night dances. Often as he came home through the timber, he would notice a mountain lion accompanying him. He would get out his fiddle and play "Arkansas Traveler" or "Pretty Red Wing" and the cat would fall back. Tom used to say that was one audience he never tried to capture.

Tom's daughter, Margie Cowan, finishes his story by saying, "The strong tree that was our father toppled on April 28, 1964. He was not a gentle man and I often judged him tyrannical. He would have scorned women's lib. Yet when he died, it was as if a sturdy wind-break went down and we stood flinching as the sleet hit our faces."

Tom lies in the rocky little cemetery on a hill overlooking the lake he loved, its waters covering the meadows of the first ranches in the Madison Valley.

Margie Cowan Madison Valley Trails and Trials p82-3.



**February 1949** by Jack Kirby

. In 1949 there were 13 family ranch operations south of Indian Creek, 2 west of the river and the rest scattered between the river and the Madison Range. Most did not have easy access to the highway and expected to be occasionally snowbound.

The winter of 1948-49 I spent at the Kirby Ranch, 35 miles south of Ennis, helping my dad feed cattle and with other ranch chores. The winter had been exceptionally snowy with lots of wind and since we were hauling loose hay from the haystacks on the bench, lots of snow shoveling had been necessary. Even though we were using horses and a hay rack on bobsled runners, many trips we had to shovel our way up the hill and then clear more snow on the way down. February 4th came on a Saturday night and, of course, my presence in town was a necessity. Due to the drifting and low visibility on the Armitage Flat, I did not travel home at night. I usually stayed at Cloe Paugh's home, in the basement room I had lived in during high school. That night more snow and wind closed the road at the "26 Mile Hill". This was the downgrade 26 miles from Ennis where the highway dropped down toward the Hippe Ranch at

Wolf Creek. The Highway Department had a one way snow plow mounted on 1 - ton dump truck. There was one stationed in the valley with Joe Wood as the only employee. He operated on a 40 hour weekly schedule so anything that happened after Friday afternoon was dealt with Monday. By this Monday it would have taken much more than a simple snow plow to open the hill. Therefore, the end result was that I was snowbound in Ennis.

My dad had several unused hay stacks in the bottom meadows that were easy to access without shoveling snow. He also had a tractor loader for clearing driveways and corrals. With milk cows, chickens, and a storeroom full of groceries they were in good shape to be snowbound at their location.

Ennis was cut off from the rest of the world in all directions. The high school ski team (Bill and Titus Bry, Aldrich Saier, and Dean Matzick) were ferried to Norris in a Montana Power "weasel" to attend the State Ski Meet. Gil Hansen used cross country skis to go to Virginia City and pick up yeast for his bakery. A native of Minnesota, he was experienced in cross country skiing and had the necessary equipment. The Ennis Cafe, operated by Eleanor Bennetts, kindly allowed me, and several others, adequate credit for our meals. With no deliveries coming in, we did express concern to her citing the decline in the number of cats that frequented the areas behind the cafe.

As time passed there did not appear to be any break in the weather. The whole northern half of the country was at a standstill while wind and more snow closed highways and railroads. Harold Helt and I worked on a solution to several problems. The existing telephone line ended at the Kirby Ranch. Further south, the Olliffe family, Jerry and Winnie Womack, Andrew Schuster, the Haldersons at the Cliff Lake Post Office, Maurice Staggers, and the Neely Ranch were without communications. Ed McAtee offered us the use of horses and tack to try to reach these families. At daylight the morning of February 21, Leonard McAtee trucked us to the top of the "26 Mile Hill" with 3 horses, saddles and a pack saddle for the trip. The accumulated mail for all the families plus the Sun Ranch and Shelton's was loaded onto the pack horse. As we led our horses over the drift covering the road, we noted that the snow was packed so hard that hoof prints barely showed. We followed the highway where there were bare spots, used ridges when necessary, cut several fences as needed and arrived at the Kirby Ranch at dark. By highway, the distance was 9 miles, but how many more we traveled would be hard to guess. After spending the night at the Kirby's, Harold rode on to the Cliff Lake Post Office, checked with the Womacks and Olliffes and returned by evening. All the families were in good shape having plenty of food and other supplies. These were experienced people, used to being snowbound during various winters over the long years they had lived in the Upper Valley. The next day Harold returned to the "26 Mile Hill" leaving the other two horses with us until the road would be opened.

The snow and wind had let up after the 20th leaving clear skies and temperatures in the 20°- 30° range. By February 27 the Highway Department managed to open the roads





# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 11 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

April 2013

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**From the Wagon Seat- President Don Black:** Don is busy being a new grandparent and other numerous activities for MVHA so the editor took liberties in reporting on all of the latest happenings. :)

## **William Ennis Birthday Celebration**

The fifth annual William Ennis Birthday Celebration, sponsored by the Madison Valley History Association was held March 17 at the Ennis School Cafeteria. This was the first time in 5 years that William Ennis' birthday fell on a Sunday and was held from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.. A good crowd feasted on Irish Stew, Irish soda bread, Blarney stones and Birthday cake. Most everyone stayed for the afternoon, had seconds of great food, enjoyed great company and great conversations that never ended until the clean-up was complete. If you did not attend, you missed a great birthday celebration of the founding father of our great community of Ennis.

A great big Thank you to all the MVHA members who helped in some way to make this celebration a success. Planning meetings, posters, putting up posters, window display, Madisonian articles, getting the supplies, arranging for the stew and cole slaw, getting donations from the merchants, setting up, serving, cleaning up, and a myriad of tasks to pull this off. We don't have a complete list of all that helped so cannot list them but you know who you are and thanks a bunch.

For those of you who are new or just did not know, William Ennis, the founder of the town of Ennis was born in Ireland on March 17, St. Patrick's Day; thus our celebration each year on March 17. Stay tuned for next year.

Awards were presented to the two students who won the "I like William Ennis Because," essay contest. Both students are 7th graders in Mr. Nelson's English class at Ennis Junior High School. Kelsie Frey placed first with her essay titled *The Founder of Ennis, William Ennis* and received a copy of the Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray and her choice of jewelry made by MVHA President, Don Black. Will Gilmore placed second with his essay entitled *William Ennis* and Will chose a copy of Early Days in the Madison Valley by James S. Spray for his award. Both students read their essays to the audience. You will find the winning essays printed on page 4 and 5 of this issue.

Programs of past months featured in January "History of Bear Creek School" with Mona Durham and Karen Shores, February was "Larry Zabel Reflections" with DVD and Zabel memorabilia provided by Beverly Claassen and March was the William Ennis Birthday Celebration. and now this month the "History of the Varney Oil Well" researched by Don Black. Check out Looking Ahead on page 6 to get the summer programs on your calendar.

## **Museum opening**

Spring always gets the MVHA thinking about the opening of the museum. Otis Thompson has been busy preparing walkway boards and he will lead the project of completing the walkway from the museum to the forge building. Give Otis a call (682-7415) if you have a few hours to help with this project. Highway cleanup for the museum section of highway is scheduled for May 11. Meet at the museum with good walking shoes, gloves, sun screen and water at 9:00 am weather permitting.

The museum will open for Memorial Day weekend May 25, 26 and 27. Volunteers are needed to greet guests at the museum for 1:00 to 4:00pm. The museum will open for the season on June 11 and will be open Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00pm. until September or October or when folks stop coming by. Sign up calendars will be passed at meetings but call Larry at 682-5780 if you can help out by taking a day. The museum cannot be available for visitors unless you, the members, take a day to keep the museum open. If you live away from Ennis, plan your summer visit, trip or just make a special trip to come and volunteer at the museum. It is only 3 hours and is fun. If every member who is able could take a day, keeping the museum open for visitors would be very easy. See you at the museum this summer!!

Donations have been coming in. Madison Valley Woman's Club and Vintage Attic gave early day baby clothes, old nurse's dresses and medical clothing and another box which will be a surprise as we go through it. Larry Love just picked up a nice assortment of military uniforms from WWI and WWII from John Hauk of the VFW. Don Black just received several photo albums and assorted pictures of Bobbi Brand's Rodeo pictures for years 1979 to 1984. Members are working hard at getting these items ready for summer at the museum. Call to volunteer if you would like to help with getting these displays ready. Many hands make light work and the more the merrier!

**History Tidbit:** For sale: brick hotel building with furnishings. Ask Mrs. William Ennis Dec. 11, 1903 *Times*

**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard

**Arrow Real Estate Toni & Don Bowen (B)**

P.O. Box 1490 (406)682-4290  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Allestad, Janet (Knight)(I)** 843-5668

P.O. Box 235 (cell 406-660-1453)  
Virginia City, MT 59755

**Warburton, Esther & Gene (F)** 682-7740

P.O. Box 1104  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Wilkins, Gene (I)** 682-4688

335 Ennis Lake Rd.  
Ennis, MT 59729

**White, Roger (I)**

7 Foothill Terrace  
Aberdeen, Scotland AB117UR  
United Kingdom

**Membership Update** 2013 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during April, May or June or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with in this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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**Member News**

Long time MVHA and Honorary member, **Hal Pasley** has spent the winter with son, Al, in Arizona. He has had a great time while there and has spent most of his time sitting on the patio. The Montana Talking Books Library sent his books for his machine and he has spent a great deal of time listening to them. He has said many times that he misses his friends in Ennis that come by and see him and he is looking forward to seeing them all when he returns to Montana on April 11, with daughter, Hallie Adam. Submitted by son, Al.

**John Scully**, MVHA member, has filed to be a candidate for trustee of the Ennis School Board. (From the *Madisonian*)

**Willie's Distillery** on Main Street Ennis in the former Texaco Station location is open for business. Robin and Willie Blazer are owners and founders. Stop by and see a new piece of history as they produce Montana Moonshine which is an unaged version of bourbon whiskey. (From the *Madisonian*.) Moonshine is back in the valley! See one of the valley's original moonshine stills at the museum this summer.

**Don and Darla Black**, MVHA members and Don is currently president, are proud and brand new grandparents with the arrival of William Henry born on Mar.15 to Devney (Black) and Bill Perry. (From the *Madisonian*)

**Anita Ames** celebrated her 90th birthday on April 8, 2013. Happy Birthday, Anita!

Please send any special member news to the editor of the Wagon Tongue.

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**Memories**

Long time MVHA member, **Joy Eletha Bates Schendel** passed away on January 2, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor. She was born on July 29, 1919 in Bellevue, Idaho to Mack and Elva Carter Bates. Joy's sister, Bobby Bates Klatt submitted this memory of her sister.

**Remembering Joy Bates Schendel**

The first ten years of Joy's life were spent in Bellevue, Idaho. She told me recently those were the happiest years of her life.

She and her parents, Mack and Elva Bates lived in the town of Bellevue. They had a lovely home there. Dad owned a service station and shop. Our grandparents, Jon and Ella Carter, owned a small farm on the outskirts of town. where they raised some crops and sheep. Now and then Granddad Carter would fetch Joy with a team and wagon, take her to the farm to spend the weekend. She loved that.

Joy was sad to leave her friends and grandparents when her family moved to Montana. But a few years later her grandparents moved to Ennis too. Also, I was born a year or so later so that must of added some excitement to her life.

Joy started school in Ennis in fourth grade. She graduated in 1937. She was the last member of her class of '37 when she passed away. Joy attended Normal College in Dillon for two years. There she met her lifelong friend, Violet (Scotchy) Burns Thexton. Scotchy was a graduate student and she took Joy under her wing. Joy taught school at Moise, MT for one year.

She married Wilson Schendel (high school sweetheart) in 1940 at St. James Episcopal Church in Bozeman. They spent most of their married life in Missoula where Wilson worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Their son, Dale, was born and raised in Missoula. After retirement, they moved to Bozeman and spent winters in Mesa, AZ.

Joy spent the last six years of her life alone. Wilson passed away in 2007 and son, Dale, died in 2008 from cancer.

Joy is very proud of Dale.

(cont on pg 3)

## **Memories cont from pg 2**

He was a commercial pilot for Northwest Airlines.

Joy moved back to Ennis in July 2012. She resided at Madison Valley Manor. She was happy to be back in Ennis. She had a beautiful view of Fan Mountain from her window.

Joy left us January 2, 2013. We miss her. Her sister

Thank you Bobby for submitting your memory of your sister, Joy, to the *Wagon Tongue*. Stories like this help with the MVHA's mission of preserving the history of the Madison Valley.

**Michael O' Rourke**, 86, passed away Dec. 21, 2012 in Butte. He was born on June 4, 1926 in Butte to Michael A. and Julia (Sullivan) O'Rourke. In Mick's younger years he worked on the Madison River Dam in the Bear Trap and he and his wife, Rae, and their children spent many years camping and fishing in the Madison area. For more than 30 years they have enjoyed spending time at their summer place in McAllister.

**Kenneth Luke Kay, Jr.**, 83, passed away on Dec. 24, 2012 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born on April 15, 1929 in Oakes, N. D. to Kenneth L. Kay, Sr. and Sydney (Newstrom) Kay. Ken was proud of his pioneer history. His great-grandparents came to Montana from England in 1856. His grandfather was born in 1867 in a tent near Bannack. His grandmother was a cousin to May Hunter Doane, wife of the Army officer who led the first military expedition in 1870 into what later became Yellowstone Park. Kenneth is father to Janet Zimmerman of Pony.

**Janice L.(Anderson) Smith** passed away on Jan 10, 2013 at her home in Alder. She was born on Nov. 4, 1943 to Lawrence and Margaret Anderson. Her father was in the construction business and brought his family to Ennis in 1959 after the big earthquake. When work ran out, the family moved on but Janice chose to stay and got a job working at Betty's Cafe.

**Dale E. Clark** passed away Jan. 11, 2013 in Arizona. Dale moved his family to Ennis in 1951 to help his father-in-law, P. Lee Bollinger run the Norris Telephone Co. Over the next eight years, the two men moved the newly named Madison Valley Telephone Co. from the age of old fashioned "crank and shout," "Hello Central" telephone service to the modern dial telephone age. After Lee Bollinger died in 1959, Dale assumed ownership of the telephone company and provided service from South of Varney Bridge to North of Harrison and from halfway between Ennis and Virginia City East to include what is now Big Sky Ski Resort.

**Bonnie Jean (Garrett) Workman** of Norris passed away Jan. 20, 2013. She was born on Sept. 27, 1939 in Casper, Wyo., to Edd Lee and Viola May(Taylor) Garrett. Bonnie studied nursing getting her Bachelor Degree in Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman. She was the second Nursing Administrator at the Ennis Hospital. In addition to her long nursing career she owned and operated Rivergal Shuttle Service, LLC which was a shuttle service for fly fishermen on the Madison River.

**Frederick James Shively** passed away on

Jan. 23, 2013. He was raised in Roslyn, S.D. by parents Harold and Cora Bell Shively. His life long entrepreneurial spirit bought Jim and his wife, Ellen, to Ennis in 1972 where they first bought the Longbranch Saloon with a partner.

During the years they lived in Ennis, Jim owned and operated many businesses including several restaurants and Lick-a-Dee-Lube, an oil change business. He was also Ennis town judge. For nearly a decade, Jim and Ellen served as the camp hosts of the Ennis campground. Phyllis Wasick, MVHA member and close friend of the Shively's, shared a story that Jim loved to tell. He owned the Ennis Cafe and Betty's Cafe. One evening a disgruntled customer complained about the poor menu and other displeasures and wanted to know if there was another better restaurant in town. Jim shared that there was a good one right across the street and that they were welcome to go there. The unhappy customer stomped out and crossed the street. Jim made sure that he crossed over some time later just in time to take the customer's money as they paid their bill at Betty's Cafe.

**Clinton Brent Warburton** passed away Jan 23, 2013. He was born April 6, 1944 in Brigham City, Utah to Hazel and Karl Warburton. His childhood was spent on the family ranch at Cameron and he graduated from Stevensville, MT high school. His sister is Karen Dringle and brother is newest MVHA member, Gene Warburton.

**Juana Joyce (Willett) McKnight** passed away at St. Peters Hospital in Helena, MT on March 1, 2013. She was born on August 30, 1938 in Butte, Mt to Kemp and Doris Willett. Juana attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School in 1956. Her brother is long time Madison Valley resident, Jay Willett.

**James Harrison "Hungry" Saunders** passed away on March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. He was born in Morgantown, West Virginia to William Millard and Virginia Manley Southern Saunders on Aug. 15, 1923. He attended Ennis schools and graduated from Ennis High School. Harrison attended Western Montana College in Dillon briefly before being drafted into the Army and serving in WWII. Harrison found his calling when he became a back hoe operator and formed Saunders Excavation Company. He was once called on in 1972 to dig a channel into the gorge ice near the Ennis Bridge so that the Madison River waters would not flood the town.

**David "Bus" Richardson**, 97, passed away March 4, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis. He was born in a raging blizzard in Great Falls, MT on Feb. 21, 1916 to John and Flora (Gervais) Richardson. He ranched for many years near Geyser. In 2002 their grandson built a home for them at McAllister to be near daughter Marilyn and Terry Jenkins. Marilyn is a long time teacher for the Ennis Schools.

**Phyllis E. (Day)Richter** of Toston, Mt. passed away March 12, 2013. She was born in Idaho Falls, Idaho on May 24, 1923 to Lucy May and Abraham John Day. Phyllis is the mother of

(cont. on pg 4)





**For Your Reading Pleasure**

The Road Between by Florence Bell Ore Memoir written by the speaker for the May Annual Meeting. Available at Madison Valley Public Library and Twin Bridges Library and other libraries around the state. Will be available for purchase at annual meeting.

**Looking Ahead**

**May 16th , 2013** Trinity Church, Jeffers 4:00 to 6:00 Annual meeting, Awards and Potluck Program Writing Your Memoir by Florence Ore of Pony

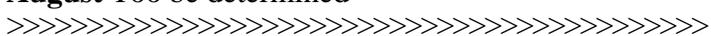
**June 20, 2013** 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room. Program: Dawn in El Dorado the Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory by Gary Forney

7:00ish Fire Pit Social at the MVHA museum and forge BYOB, snacks, marshmallows and other beverage

**May 11, 2013** 9:00am Highway Cleanup (see pg 1)

**July 26, 2013** All day 9am to 6pm Photo tour of the Madison Valley and BBQ Feature history, scenery, wildlife and people. Sponsored by MVHA, Ghost Town Preservation Society and Camera Club of Bozeman Details to be announced. This will be the MVHA meeting for month of July

**August** Too be determined



**MVHA Cookbook** It is not too late to get a copy of the MVHA historical cookbook. It is available at the at the Ennis Pharmacy. You may still order copies for \$15 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729. This is a great Mother’s Day gift or gift for an “old timer”.

**Walk of Names** MVHA’s project for 2013 will be to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building . Orders are s being taken for the Walk of Names boards. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. Don’t forget to honor a family or family member or give a memorial. A great gift! Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible.

**From the Mail Box** Roger White (*cont. from page 5*)

My mother married twice. Her first husband was killed in W.W.II. Her second husband, Ronald George White, was my father. Both passed away some time ago. Neither of my parents had much contact with their relatives and I only began to investigate my family history after they died. I found out about William, Stephen and their brothers and sisters and began to track down information about all of them...except William, who disappeared from the English records sometime in the 1860’s.

Eventually I found a reference to a William John Foreman in Virginia City. When I got a hold of some US censuses I became convinced he was my missing ancestor. A lady in Montana kindly sent me some pages about him from the book Pioneer Trails and Trials and I received further information from a Thexton in Australia who was also researching his family history.

There matters rested until I discovered the

**MVHA Board of Directors**

President: Don Black

Vice-President: Larry Love

Past President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke

Secretary: David Hoag

Director: Liz Applegate

Director: Shirley Love

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2013.

Editor: Shirley Love e-mail.whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Contributing editors:

Bobby Klatt *Remembering Joy Bates Schendel*

Dr Jeffery Safford *The “Devils Teapot”*

Kelsie Frey *The Founder of Ennis*

Will Gilmore *William Ennis*

Hal Pasley *Nature’s Beauty*

**Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank**

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Madison Valley History Association web site. They put their newsletters online. I found various references in them to Foremans and Thextons including a note from Robert (Bob) Foreman who you mention. From the names in his description of family parties in the past I knew he must be a relative. I then contacted Don Black of the association who kindly put me in touch with Robert. His wife, also a Mary Ann, used e-mail and we have exchanged information.

And now I have found you! Believe it or not, I think I know what you look like because on the MVHA Facebook page there is a photo of a meeting they had last year on moonshine and you and your husband are in one of the photos. You’re all smiling, so maybe you had free samples of the product?! Of course in Scotland we have our own special brand of the stuff- good Scotch Whisky.

Thank you for giving me Bob Foreman’s address and also mentioning the English couple-Reggie and Vickie Dixon. I haven’t heard of them so may write to them to see if they are Foreman relatives.

Although I live in Scotland, I am English and was born North of London where some Foreman relatives were living and farming before my parents moved there.

Mary Ann, thank you again for writing to me. In the old country we always think that it is the folks who left to emigrate that are keen to trace their roots. But it sometimes works the other way round and you have helped me trace some of mine.

All the best to you, George and your family. Who knows I might make it to Big Sky country one of these days. Roger



**Welcome to Membership** The following have joined since the April issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard

**Beekman, Bob & Jan(F)** 682-4177  
P.O. Box 1477 7 Mallard's Roost  
Ennis, MT 59729

**Bryner, Carol (Crump)(F)** 907-277-7967  
626 'N' St.  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Elpel Jan (I)** 587-5844  
8215 Fowler Ln..  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**Ravis, Lorraine & Chuck(F)** 682-4277  
125 Haypress Lake Trail ( S)  
Ennis, MT 59729  
43 Oatway Ln. (W)  
Winthrop, ME 04364

played in the Community Band Concert in Peter T Park for the Ennis 4th of July Celebration.

**Gary Forney**, local author and historian has recently completed and published his most recent book Dawn In El Dorado: The Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory.

**Fred and Darlene(Neville) Rochez** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows ceremony at Trinity Church on July 6, 2013.

**Mary and George Clausen** became proud grand parents for the first time with the birth of Livia July on July 9, 2013.

**Lester and Bobby (Bates) Klatt**, 15 year members of MVHA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 15, 2013. Cake was served after church on the 14th Please send any member news to the editor so special events and accomplishments are remembered.

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Memories

Long time MVHA member, **Charles "Buck" Crump**, passed away in December, 2012. He was born in Wallingford, CT on December 23, 1916. He lived his whole life in Wallingford, but traveled often to Montana, Wyoming and England. After finishing high school, he took a bus to Montana where he spent the first of many summers working on the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch. He was very proud of his work there and wrote stories of moving horses from winter pasture to the dude ranch. Some of his stories have been published in past editions of the Wagon Tongue. He was a delightful man, only known to the editor through correspondence. He was a faithful supporter of the MVHA.

"Buck's" daughter, Carol Crump Bryner and son, Kirtland Hall Crump found his membership renewal form and have decided to continue their father's support of the MVHA with a membership.

Monty Duane Jackson passed away April 4, 2013 at the Billings Clinic. He was born in Norris on Aug. 9, 1944 to Willet and Gayle Shouse Jackson. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Ennis High School. He married Sherrie Frisbie on Oct. 5, 1963. They later divorced and Monty married Rhonda Ross. Monty began his ranching career at Corral Creek Ranch outside of Cameron, MT.

Donna B.(Smith) Bennett passed away April 10, 2013. She was born March 14, 1940 in Minneapolis, MN to Harry Floyd and Thressa Lois(Tawlks) Smith. Donna moved with her family to Jeffers, MT when she was 3 months old. Donna attended Ennis High School. Donna is the sister to MVHA Board member, Devonna (Smith) Owens.

Brendan Glenn Reints passed away on April 10, 2013. He was born on March 18, 1980 in Sheridan, MT. to Danny Devers and Robin Reints Lake. He is a grandson to MVHA members, Elso and Marlene Reints.

Tanya Christensen passed away on May 14, 2013. She was born in Rexburg, ID to Pete and Arva Christensen. She was raised in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School. (*Memories continued on pg. 3*)

Membership Update 2013 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during July, Aug. or Sept. or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

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Member News:

Dick and Polly Todd of Sheridan, were featured in the April 25, '13 issue of the *Madisonian* under Living Pioneers of Madison County.

Vickey Gordon, MVHA calling committee member, performed a concert of classical music in Virginia City at the Elling House on June 29, 2013.

John and Sharron Gecho celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29, 2013 at the Blue Moon in Cameron.

Lynn and Devonna Owens, MVHA board members, along with Bill and Marge Bowersox were Parade Marshals for the Ennis 4th of July Parade.

Larry Love, MVHA president and **Vickey Gordon**, 2

Memories cont. from page 2

Richard M. Lyon passed away on April 17, 2013 at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. He was born in Atlanta, GA on Oct. 4, 1956. He moved to Ennis with his family and graduated from Ennis High School in 1984. He was in the National Guard and his passion for music took him to Nashville. He moved back to Ennis and married Mandy. He continued to play music with other musicians around Ennis.

Genevieve Hickey passed away on April 23, 2013. She was born in Minneapolis, MN on November 20, 1920 to Dr. Douglas Ford and Grace Evelyn Robbins. She followed her sister, Helen, to Dillon, MT where she met Maurice Joseph Hickey. They were married in Moore, MT and they eventually ended up in Ennis. They owned and operated Hickeys Four Seasons Motel on Main Street from 1949 to 1995, more than 45 years in the hotel business. She was a member of Madison Valley Woman's Club.

George Alger passed away on May 10, 2013 at the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis. He was born on Feb. 8, 1922 near Harrison, MT to Carl and Minnie (Handkenson) Alger. George's father, Carl was born in Michigan and came to Montana with his parents when he was one. They lived on the Stephen's ranch and he went to school at South Boulder and then Jefferson Island. He also worked in the mines in Butte before marrying Minnie Hankenson in 1921. They then lived on a ranch just out of Willow Creek, MT. George was born near Harrison. He attended elementary school in Harrison and Varney and when his family moved to California in 1929, attended school in California. before returning to Montana and attending Ennis High School.

As a youngster, he got a job working for the Call Ranch at a wage of 50 cents a day. One day Mrs. Call was watching him and after a while called him over and told him he was working as hard as any man. She increased his wage to \$1.00 a day.

As a junior in high school, he attended a music festival in Bozeman and caught the attention of a music agent. He had a wonderful baritone voice that was recognized early on as exceptional. He was rated as Superior at the music festival where he sang the song Deep Purple. He left the Madison Valley in 1940 traveling to the Los Angeles area. He had the opportunity to sing with various bands one of them the Ted Lewis band. During his time in the Army he also sang for General Patton. He served in the Army during W.W.II. His instructor on the gun range asked if he had ever fired a rifle in the Army. His answer was "No". After being instructed how to use the gun, he fired 5 bulls eyes in the target. The instructor said, "I thought you didn't know how to shoot a gun." His reply was he had never shot a gun in the Army, but he had shot gophers in the fields of Montana. He was part of the Omaha Beach Landing during the war.

While in California he married former Miss California, Gladys Putnam. He later married Barb Carwell (sp?) and he and Barbara returned to Montana to make

their home. He was a very active member of the Masons and he bowled in a league up until the time that the alley closed. He was also an avid snowmobiler and belonged to the Vigilante Snowmobile club. After Barbara's death, he met and married Mary Ann Gorman on Sept. 27, 1999. Progressive Years, Madison County, Montana Vol. II pg. 554 by Marie Alger, Obituary *Madisonian*, Memory of George by Darlene Neville Rochez
Eula Cora Thompson Wing, age 105, passed away May 20, 2013 at the Madison Valley Manor where she resided the last six years. Lula's son, Dave and wife, Jerry are current members of the Madison Valley History Association. Lula was born on Nov. 23, 1907 in Deer Park, Wash. to Lester H. and Besse Mason Thompson and they moved to the Gallatin Valley in 1910. Lula graduated from Gallatin County High School and attended Montana State College. In 1927 she was accepted into Northwestern University in Illinois where she became a registered nurse, a profession she continued throughout her life.

Lula had an early connection with the Madison Valley when as a girl at Gallatin County High School, 1923 to 1927, classmates were the Maynard sisters. She would visit the Maynard Family on weekends at the Family Ranch which is now The Channels. She told us of the experience crossing the lake on the pontoon boat when the wheels of the car would sink into the water. A scary experience for her. The girls enjoyed themselves going to dances at Cameron and riding horses at the ranch.

Lula married Leonard A. Wing on Feb. 23, 1932.

Eula's father, Lester, raised Purebred Hereford Cattle. Alice Orr of the Bear Creek Ranch purchased range bulls from Dave's grandfather. Dave recalls riding along when the bulls were delivered to Bear Creek and Antelope Basin.

During World War II while her husband, Leonard, was in the South Pacific, Lula worked as a registered nurse in Bozeman. When Leonard returned from the service, they resumed their normal life ranching at Toston and Manhattan, MT.

Dave remembers his Mom as being a great cook and horse woman. He also remembers that the last time they cross country skied together, Lula was in her early 70's
Madisonian Obituary and Memory of Eula Cora Thompson Wing by Dave and Jerry Wing

Helen Edwards passed away at her home on May 21, 2013. Helen did not have much connection to the Madison Valley but you will remember her husband, Jim Edwards who passed away on Oct., 11, 2007.

Karl Gene Warburton passed away June 10, 2013 in Ennis. He was born Sept. 25, 1929 in Salt Lake City, UT to Karl and Hazel (Chadwick) Warburton. Gene was raised in Grouse Creek, Utah and moved with his family to Cameron in 1948 where the family ranched for 36 years. Gene joined the MVHA shortly before he passed on.

Richard Noack passed away on June 17, 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz. He was born Feb. 28, 1935 in Duluth Minn. to Arnold and Mary Noack. (*Continued pg 4*)

Memories continued from pg. 3

He started hunting in Montana in 1959 and brought the family for vacations in Ennis starting in 1965. He loved the area, and moved his family here in 1969. He bought the Todd Ford Agency from Dan and Zoe Todd which was located where the current City Hall complex is now. After getting out of the auto business, he built roads for the forest service.

Marvin Lee Stewart passed away June 27, 2013. He was born on April 29, 1937 in Ennis, Mt. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1955. He married Bea Duke on Jan. 28, 1956. Marv and his wife ran Marv's OK Tire in Dillon, Stewart's Tire in Pocatello, Id and Snake River Tire in Twin Falls, Id.

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Memories are excerpted *Madisonian* Obituaries. Also *Progressive Years* and *Madison Valley Trails and Trials* are helpful. Any memories and stories of Madison Valley's departed folks is welcomed by the *Wagon Tongue* for printing in future editions. Their stories are the history of this valley. For this issue I received memories from Carol Crump Bryner, Dave and Jerry Wing and Darlene (Neville) Rochez. I also received tidbits of help from Neil Kent, Mary Ann Alger and Devonna Owens. Thank you for contributing.

Collecting Family Histories

The MVHA is making a concerted effort to have folks write their memoirs or collect their family histories to help preserve the history of the Madison Valley and the stories of the people who were born, raised and/or lived in the Madison Valley. Remember...history started yesterday so your stories do not have to be from long ago.

Ken Card of Billings recently donated a notebook of the Personal Genealogy of Frank Omar Vetter. This little notebook is a treasure trove of family history of the Vetter Lineage and the Daems Lineage. This notebook has been copied and is in archival form at the Research room of the MVHA Museum. The original notebook has been cataloged and can be used in the Research Room. Take a look at it sometime to see how Frank Vetter preserved history. It consists of copied photos and many lists, many dates and family lineage but the history is preserved.

From page 1-2, and 4 of this notebook:

Personal Genealogy of Frank Omar Vetter.

Date of Initial Entries: July 18, 1995.

Introduction:

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints in the sand of time.

--Longfellow--

All of our ancestors left their footprints, some more visible than others, some so faint or obscured by time that they may never be detected. The collection of footprints discovered by studying the lives of ancestors is known as genealogy.

Webster's dictionary defines genealogy as the descent of a person or family from an ancestor,

generation by generation.

To me, Webster's definition, while technically correct is grossly inadequate. To me, genealogy means probing the lives of ones ancestors to ferret out their secrets. It means bringing those long dead ancestors back to life, in a sense to provide information about themselves. It means getting acquainted with ones ancestors.

It is my sincere desire that the ancestral footprints I have collected there will prove useful to future generations in preparing their own genealogical records. In that sense, my own footprints appear in these pages as my legacy. This account makes extensive use of an earlier account researched and compiled by nephew, William Gerald "Billy" Tucker, with the assistance of my dear mother, Elvira Elizabeth "Lizzie" Daems Vetter.

Useful information also been found in the following publications: Great Great Uncle James Simpson "Jimmie" Spray: *Early Days in the Madison Valley, Pioneer Trails and Trials History of Madison County, Montana, Volume I, Progressive Years History of Madison Count, Montana Volume II.*

A great deal of information has been found in the LDS Family History Library, probate records of Warren County, Ohio, vital records of Madison County, Montana, and the U.S. Census records, the latter located in the National Archives, Seattle, Wash.

Further research is expected to reveal a great deal of data now missing. However, it must be understood that much of the older data have been irretrievably lost. It must also be understood that, in an undertaking of such nature and complexity as this, discrepancies are likely to occur. Reasonable care is taken to insure that such discrepancies are kept to a minimum and they will be corrected when discovered.

Omer versus Omar

From earliest memories, it has been my belief that my father's middle name was Omer. Throughout his lifetime, he was known by friends and family simply as Omer, never Omar.

Moreover, I believed that I was also given the middle name Omer, and that the name Omar on my birth certificate was a clerical error.

However, a record recently came into my possession in which my father, in 1942, petitioned the Probate Court of Warren County, Ohio to register his birth. The name he used was George Omar Vetter.

The little notebook goes on with Table of Contents and the genealogy of his family and a lot of photos. A great way to preserve a family history.

Frank Vetter passed away Sept. 16, 2011 but he left his family legacy. Following his example, now it is our turn to write down or collect our family histories!

History Tidbit Power Co. appraising farms for dam. Area condemned covered 3269.88 acres at \$20.27 per acre includes land, buildings, etc. It took appraisers 14 days to appraise at \$8.00 per day for 3 people.

July 31, 1903 *Times*

For Your Reading Pleasure

Dawn in El Dorado: the Early Mining Camps and Settlement of the Montana Territory by Gary R. Forney
The sesquicentennial of the Montana Territory is a wonderful point at which to consider its dawning years. Against the backdrop of Civil War and Reconstruction, Montana became a place of refuge and a golden land of great hopefulness. This work recounts the struggles, tragedies, controversies, humor and colorful characters of Montana's formative years.

Looking Ahead

July 26, 2013 Madison Valley Photo Tour cancelled

August 15, 2013 Tentative..Field trip to Pony ,MT with new history shared. Stay tuned for details

Sept 19 and Oct 17, 2013 Monthly MVHA meeting with programs yet to be determined



Walk of Names MVHA's project for 2013 will be to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building . Orders are being taken for the Walk of Names boards. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. Don't forget to honor a family or family member or give a memorial. A great gift! Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible. Boards are need to complete the project.

Correction from last issue. Bobby Foreman called to report that he very much liked the Roger White letter but noticed that on pg 6 mid page in column two "His wife also a Mary Ann " should read "His wife, Mary Jo".

From the Mail Box

June 19, 2013

Letter to the Editor of the Wagon Tongue, Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Dear Editor:

This month I am writing on behalf of the Journalism classes and teachers at Ennis High School. In retrieving, organizing and displaying copies of past issues of the Ennis Mustang Annuals, some gaps emerged and the teachers would appreciate any donated copies for the displayed historical collection at school:

Missing years: Any years before 1948-49, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1999, 2004

If you have or know of extra copies that could be donated to EHS, please contact the high school office at (406) 682-4258.

I know there is a collection of Annuals at our History Museum, but I also think it is very cool that the teachers and students are interested in having a collection in-house; the issues on display in the Journalism room provide a visual history in their classroom! Thank you, Vickey Gordon

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice-President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke

Secretary: Liz Applegate

Director and Historian: Don Black

Director: Devonna Owens

Director: Jimmy Carlson

Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch *Madisonian* for details of time and place and program. Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2013.

Editor: Shirley Love

e-mail.whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Contributing editors:

Carol Crump Bryner Memory of Charles "Buck" Crump

Madisonian Obituaries

Progressive Years Madison County Montana, Vol II

Darlene (Neville) Rochez

Memory of George Alger

Dave & Jerry Wing Memory of Eula Wing

Roberta Carkeek Cheney

Pony pg 205

Names on the Face of Montana

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank



A tentative field trip is planned to Pony, MT in August so just a little history. Pony is near Harrison, and was named for Tecumseh" Pony" Smith who arrived there in 1869. He acquired his nickname due to his small stature. Pony was one called by the *Madisonian* "the metropolis of the Madison Valley."

In its heyday it boasted a population of well over a thousand. Pony is an old town; even before the Alder Gulch discoveries, Smith had built a cabin on the stream that was to be called Pony Creek and was doing some placer mining. In the fall of 1875 quartz discoveries brought prospectors flocking, and by 1900 the town had many handsome brick building, including a \$12,000 schoolhouse, a bank, newspaper, stores, hotels and saloons. It is now a cluster of summer homes with a few year-round inhabitants. The post office opened in 1877 with William Wart in charge. *Names on the Face of Montana* by Roberta Carkeek Cheney

Montana Trivia is back again! Answers to #22 Wise River & #23 Belgrade from WT October 2012

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 11 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

October 2013

From the Wagon Seat: The seasons keep rolling along. We have had our first fall big snow and more to come. The fishermen are after the spawning brown trout and the hunters are arriving. On Oct. 25, the MVHA will have a table for the annual Hunter's Feed. Board Member, Liz Applegate, will have a dish of Sweet Chile Elk for you to sample. Stop by and get a sample. Then be sure to vote for Liz's dish as your #1 choice so MVHA can win one of the prizes.

In July, MVHA had the historic barn tour which included trips and oral histories of the Lichte Barn, the Walsh Ranch Barn, the Jumping Horse Barn, the Jeffers "Yellow" Barn and the Gary Clark Family Barn. Special thanks to Otis Thompson and Kevin Brenneke in helping arrange for these barns and giving the narrative for each. In August field trips continued with a trip to Pony arranged by Devonna Owens. History given by Les Kilman and assisted by Pearl Kilman along Main Street, to the Morris State Bank, the jail, two churches and the school. In September, a BBQ was held at Willie's Distillery. Willie Blazer, MVHA Business member, gave the history of the distillery business along with the making of bourbon whiskey from moonshine. For October, MVHA attended the Fish Bowl Lanes with talks on the history of bowling and bowling here in Ennis arranged by Liz Applegate.

Our field trips and events have been well attended. A big thank you to all the board members, volunteers and community members to make this happen. If we are to offer these kinds of events in the future, we need member's help and ideas. Better yet, MVHA needs you to help give a program or share your family history in a program. The Board is struggling to find programs for the coming year. Let the Board know of your ideas.

The Museum closed on Sept. 15 with another great year. The stats are in the following article. A big heartfelt thank you from your board of directors for all the volunteers for helping out and keeping the museum open. Without you, the volunteers, our MVHA will not succeed. We have a museum facility that the whole valley can be proud of.

Invite some of the younger generation to join the MVHA and get involved. Madison Valley history is their history too. In order to keep the wagons rolling, MVHA needs your help. See you at the next meeting or around the history corner. Larry Love, your Wagon Master

Museum Update

The MVHA museum closed on Sept. 15 after a great season. After Labor Day the tourists through Ennis really slow down. We hate to miss the Seniors who travel in the fall but the museum is open by special appointment so anyone who wants to visit the museum in the off season can just call 682-5780 (Larry or Shirley) or 682-7415 (Otis) and we will open it special for you and/or your guests.

Our guest book count is not an exact science but is our only estimate of folks visiting. If they sign the guest book, we get a count. 427 folks signed the book this season. This is 25 more than counted last season. Montana led the way with 180 visitors with California second with 35, Washington with 34, Idaho with 25 and Utah with 21 and 26 other states having visitors. Italy led the foreign countries with 4 visitors and we had guests from Canada, Denmark, South Africa and Austria.

Many folks came specifically to see our "beast" so he/she is getting well known. Special thanks to all of our faithful volunteers who say yes when asked to volunteer or signed up on the sign up calendars. And the MVHA has some very special volunteers who chose a day and worked almost all they could schedule in for the summer.... Mona Durham and Virginia Black worked 11 of the 13 Tuesdays. Rick Arnold worked 9 of 14 Fridays, Vern Thibodeaux 8 Thursdays and Larry Knittel 6 Thursdays or Fridays and the many, many others who answered the call to substitute for someone or to fill in anywhere when needed. And then the most important museum volunteer of all, special thanks to Kevin Brenneke who gave way too many hours to count doing the museum scheduling. MVHA has a very good museum but it remains closed on the days that no one volunteers to be at the museum for 3 hours that day.

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History Tidbit Thomas Tucker bought land (currently Cecil Klatt's place in Jeffers) from John E. Woodworth in 1910 for \$400.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Barnes, Jeanette (I) 406-782-8311

922 W. Copper
Butte, MT. 59701

Henderson, Barbara (I) 406-604-6084

P.O. Box 553
Island Park, ID 83429

Lott, Sandra S. (Alger) (I)

P.O. Box 793
Ennis, MT 59729

Lounsbury, John (I) 406-682-3239

P.O. Box 334
McAllister, M t 59729

Marinos, Karen J. (Neely) (I) 406-494-5148

3303 Hancock
Butte, MT 59701

Todd, Diane (I) 406-685-3368

Pony, MT 59747

Todd, Peggy (I)

P.O. Box
Ennis, M t 59729

Membership Update 2013 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your '13 membership is due during Oct., Nov., or Dec. or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

Member News

Virginia Black and **Doc Ron Losee** were parade marshals for the Madison County Fair Parade in Twin Bridges.

Larry Love was master of ceremonies for the Virginia City All School Reunion held Aug. He also entertained the group with several songs accompanied by Donna Gilman.

Ethelyn Hanni and other former cheerleaders for

Virginia City High School led the reunion group in school cheers and the school song.

Mary Ann Alger is on a little fall trip visiting Anita in Missoula and Ellen and Patty in Washington State.

Mary and George Clausen celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary this summer in July.

Hal Pasley will be celebrating his 103rd birthday on Nov. 12. Give him a call and wish him a Happy Birthday. Discuss some history of Ennis and he will love it.

Please send any member news to the editor so any special news of our members can be included in the Wagon Tongue.

Memories

James Harrison Saunders passed away on March 4, 2013. He was born in Morgantown West Virginia August 15, 1923 to William Millard and Virginia Saunders. His memorial was held on August 17, 2013. Following is an edited version of the eulogy given by Mary's son, Steve Sjoberg, at the memorial service for Harrison. Thank you, Steve, for sharing..... This past Thursday, Aug. 15, would have been his 90th Birthday. Along with his 3 sisters, Mary Ellen, Louise, and Lizabeth, the family moved to Ennis when Harrison was 5 years old.

Harrison became known locally as "Hungry" because he was tall and slim as a teenager. During his years at Ennis High School he played 1st trombone and continued to enjoy music throughout his lifetime. As a teenager Hungry was also active in sports most notably basketball and football. After Harrison graduated from Ennis High School he attended Western Montana College in Dillon. His college experience was brief as he was drafted into the 41st Army Division to serve as a radio operator in the Pacific Theater in WWII.

He met Jean Cline from Huntsville, Texas on a hike up Sphinx Mountain. They were married in 1952 and during 20 years of marriage, they raised 3 children, Bill Saunders, Cassie Spangrude, and Sabrina Wood; here in the Madison Valley.

Harrison found his calling when he became a backhoe operator and formed Saunders Excavation Company in 1962, providing backhoe, dump truck, grading and ready-mix cement services for the general region. He was a talented backhoe operator, often getting into places other operators avoided. He was called on in 1972 to dig a channel into the gorge ice near the Ennis Bridge so that the Madison River water would not flood the town. That event made national news.

Harrison and Jean divorced in 1973 and he later married my mother, Mary Sjoberg. They would have celebrated their 40th anniversary this coming October.

Harrison (along with Mary) promoted Amsoil Products and was very successful with that business as well. Through the years Harrison's family ranch estate was developed into a private mobile home park and vacation rentals with spectacular views, complete with blue ribbon trout streams and abundant wildlife.

Hungry was well known for his humor, card playing, his love of dancing and especially square *cont pg 3*

Memories *cont. from page 2*

dancing, where he also learned to “call” the dances. He was a big guy but incredibly light on his feet. He enjoyed square dancing well into his 80’s. He was also a very sharp chess player and when he could no longer dance he enjoyed playing chess on his computer in his later years.

Harrison is survived by his wife Mary, his son Bill, daughters Cassie and Sabrina, my siblings Bill Sjoberg, Kari Pearson and Nancy Schenk, as well as 12 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I recall sitting with Harrison at his home last fall while watching the Seahawks play against the Jets. That was our last visit together before he passed away. Having known Harrison since I was in grade school; becoming family was an easy transition. Being a college student in the early 70’s during the height of the Vietnam War; I had opinions that many would consider radical. Dressed in my bell bottom jeans, tie dyed t-shirt and hair out to “here”, many adults were not eager to invite me in. But, not Hungry. He welcomed my visits from college with open arms. Seldom would he agree with my convictions, but he would listen, ask questions and encourage me to express my opinion.

My wife, Brenda, says that engaging in a deep conversation with Harrison is like a box of chocolates. You never know what’s inside.

From the pyramid he built in the back yard...to searching for gold near Elk Lake, he always had a new interest that was somewhat unconventional.

Generous is another word used to describe Harrison. If you had a project that he was able to help with, he was there. Whether it was digging the foundation for Nancy and Dave’s home or driving to Wyoming to rescue my brother’s motorcycle. We could always count on Harrison.

For 10 years, on my nephew Greg’s birthday, Grandpa Harrison brought him a load of topsoil to play in. He even brought a little extra for Nancy’s garden. One year, on my sister Kari’s birthday, Harrison delivered a dump truck load of rocks which she cheerfully (but painstakingly) used to make several gardens.

I’d like to close with a quote from one of Harrison’s favorite motivational speakers and authors, Zig Ziglar. “The foundation stones for balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty.” These same characteristics were evident in how Harrison lived his life.

He touched this family in a very positive way. We will miss him but we are grateful for the memories.

Murel Francis Clancey, 92, passed away on July 10, 2013 at Generations Assisted Living in Ennis. He was born in Wolf Point, MT on Nov. 23, 1920 to Walter and Nellie (Ford) Clancey. They moved to Havre when he was about two years old, where he lived, except for college and service. He moved to Generations to be near his son, Pat, for the last 5 years of his life. Pat is our mayor of Ennis. While Bud Angle was alive and lived at Generations, he and Murel used to take long walks and ended up at some unusual places and the staff at

Generations had to come looking for them.

Bonnie Lee MacMillan Rice passed away on July 12, 2013 in Ennis. She was born on June 7, 1925 to Peter and Mary Elsie MacMillan at the “Stone House” one of Harrison, MT first hotels, during an earthquake. Bonnie loved dancing, and bowling and became an avid golfer when the family donated land to create Madison Meadows Golf Course in Ennis. Bonnie married Robert Charles Rice, a dashing young rancher from Cherry Creek on Dec. 16, 1946.

Darrel Glen Shelton passed away on July 16, 2013,. He was born to Glenn and Beverly Shelton on Oct. 1, 1951 and raised on the old Shelton Ranch, which is now the Sun West Ranch. He was one of the first babies born in the old Madison Valley Hospital when it was first built. He left the Shelton Ranch around 1970 and worked for the Longhorn Ranch and then worked for the county for 23 years. During the last 10 years he worked for Hokanson’s at their gravel pit.

Doris M. ‘Dodie’ Barnett passed away on July 20, 2013 at the Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis. Dodie was born on Jan 25, 1929 at the family home in Ennis to Lewis A. and Gladys Thexton Chamberlin. A memory of Dodie would be very incomplete without remembering her early family history. Grandfather, Edwin Austin Chamberlin was born in Windham, Connecticut on April 11, 1864, the only child of a sea captain plying between Boston and Melbourne, Australia. He was raised in Boston. Upon the retirement of the sea captain, he and his wife and son, Edwin, moved to Minnesota where Edwin married Minnie L. Wruck, who was born in 1873 in Coburg,, Germany and came to Minnesota when 4 years old. They farmed in Minnesota and Edwin also worked for M. W. Savage, owner of the famed Don Patch, the great trotting horse.

In 1902 some horse races were held at Rosebud, Mt. Edwin was there and met William J. (Will) Ennis and became interested in coming further West. Will Ennis had a race horse name Dyke. Edwin came to Ennis, took over the handling of Dyke and also Will’s “Big Red Barn” where travelers stabled their horses. The Telephone Company building stood on the site in 1974. (Now in 2013, this is the location of Shedhorn Sports.)

In January of 1903, Minnie, children Anthony Lee (Tony), Lewis Austin (Dodie’s father) and Grace Hannah arrived to visit Edwin and possibly to evaluate the place as a future home. They stayed only a short time, but the boys remember the many robes and wraps that were required to keep them warm on their trip by stage coach over the mountains to the Madison Valley from Norris which was the end of the railroad. Minnie and children returned to Minnesota to prepare for a move to Ennis. They took up residence in a house Mrs. William Ennis owned on Main Street. There Dorothy Louise was born and the beautiful child drowned in an irrigation ditch behind the house.

Edwin fed and took care of some pet elk that lived on the Ennis ranch. One old bull ‘Jimmy’ was especially menacing and had to be prodded with a

cont pg. 4

Memories *Cont. from page 3*

pitchfork to be kept in his place. He was annoyed at seeing clothes hanging on clothes lines and unless chased away, was known to leave with his horns decorated with sheets, pillow cases or whatever.

Mrs. William Ennis gave a parcel of land to Edwin on which to build his house. (Valley Bank is now on that plot of land.) Minnie was a fine cook and took in boarders. Edwin had a contract to carry the mail to Lyon Post Office. He was also foreman at the Valley Garden Ranch in 1919 and from there went to the Green Acres , working for the Buford-Elling Ranch Company until about 1924. From there he went to the Bear Creek Ranch near Cameron, and then to be foreman for Cunningham and Biering.

written by Lewis A. Chamberlin for the Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County, Montana Vol 1,Edwin Austin Chamberlin pg. 33.

There was no school in Ennis at that time, so children walked to Jeffers to school. They attended Sunday school in Jeffers and on Sunday when it was hot they decided to go swimming in one of the ponds near the river. When dressing after swimming they got their starched collars on backward. When they returned home, their father asked were on time for Sunday school. They said they had been, but after swimming they weren't sure how the collars went on so they put them on the way the minister wore his.

Lewis worked for J. W. Chowning as a grocery, hardware and dry goods clerk. On April 9, 1923 he and Gladys M. Thexton were married. They had a home in Ennis from that time on. Their son, Norman Hugh and daughters, Doris Marilyn (Dodie) and Freda Louise were born there. written by Gladys Chamberlin for the Progressive Years, Madison County, Montana Vol 11, Lewis A. and Gladys May(Thexton) Chamberlin pg. 726

Dodie graduated from Ennis High School in 1948 and attended Western Montana College in Dillon for two years where she received a teaching certificate. On June 17, 1951 she married Howard "Barney" Barnett and they had three daughters. Dodie was very active in her community being a member of Madison Valley Woman's Club, working faithfully at the Nearly New Store, Ennis Arts Association, where she was raffle ticket seller extraordinaire, Madison County Volunteer Hospice, Order of Eastern Star, Trinity Episcopal Church, Madison Valley Medical Center, Sons and Daughters of the Montana Pioneers and was a 14 year member of the Madison Valley History Association where she was a wealth of historical information for the Madison Valley. She supported the Madison Valley Volunteer Fire Department of which Barney and Vurnie Kay were members. She supported all of the Ennis High School sports teams and rarely missed a home game..receiving an award for her support.

Dodie was renowned for her homemade pickled beets and dill pickles. She enjoyed cooking for a bunch and was always putting on an extra plate or two for

anyone who might be around.

Jan Eugene Smith passed away on July 21, 2013. He was born in Ogden, Utah on Dec. 24,1938 to Gene and Mary Chapple Smith. He and his wife, Jackie Dockter, moved to Ennis in 1999 after retiring.Jan was a member of the Masonic Lodge and received his 50-year recognition. He helped to found the Madison Valley Shrine Club.

Mark Leslie Jasmann of Cameron, MT passed away in July, 2013. He was born in Ennis on Jan. 2, 1951 to Mike and Sylvia(McQuire) Jasmann. He attended his last years of high school in Ennis. After college and travel, Mark began setting up his own cattle operation. In 1988 his family moved to Corral Creek Ranch and leased grazing rights and managed the livestock and ranch responsibilities for Marian Cummings and her daughter, Molly Cook, and in 1991 for Pam and Fred Rentschler.

Dennis Clinton Frisbie, long time MVHA member passed away on August 4, 2013. He was born Feb. 24, 1932 to Jean (Howell) and Clinton Frisbie in Butte, Mt. His childhood was spent mostly in the McAllister and Ennis area and he graduated from Ennis High School in 1951 and spent a year cowboying on local ranches before serving in the Naval Air Corp. He married Wilhelmine "Willie" Marquart in Oct. 1954. He graduated from Montana State College in premed. and after all his schooling and training, became the only Child and Family Psychiatrist in northern Wyoming in 1973.

Andrew "Bud" Cooper passed away Sept. 14, 2013. at the age of 91. He was born May 27, 1922 to Andrew 'Andy' and Jennie (Veltkamp) Cooper. He married Helen Cook in 1953 and began a long career in the talc mining industry.

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In August, the MVHA field trip was a historic barn tour. **Lois Walsh**, long time MVHA member was a gracious host at her family's ranch and barn and shared this history of the Walsh Barn.

This historic landmark on the Gene Walsh Ranch at Cameron, Montana was built in 1917 by Walter McAtee of the McAtee Horse Ranch. Mr. McAtee was a member of an early pioneer and ranching family in the Madison Valley of Montana. This barn was the "pride of the ranch," and is reputed to be the largest barn of its style/design in the Madison County. It had eighteen stalls each of which was designed to accommodate a team of work horses, and each stall held a team at the time when horses were used for ranch work. In addition to the stalls for the teams, two enclosed stalls were provided for breeding stallions. The barn has a full loft where hay was stored and each stall had a manger with an opening and an enclosed shaft to the loft so hay could be easily forked down to be fed to the horses below. A track ran the full length in the top of the barn. A large fork and trolley was used to elevate the loose hay from the wagons and move it to the desired location in the barn.

Tommy and Marie Thompson bought the ranch from the McAtee's and ranched

Walsh Barn

Cont from pg 4

there for a number of years. Neil Thompson, one of their son's and long time MVHA member, carved his initials in the door of the barn so we know he was there. The Olsen brothers, Lee and George, were the next owners of the ranch.

When the ranch was purchased by Gene Walsh, the barn was badly in need of being repainted and reroofed. During one summer, circa 1974, the owner's teenage daughter, Eileen repainted the structure by hand, taking care to wire brush any worn, chipped, and flaking paint away first. It took forty five gallons of Columbia Paint's barn red and several gallons of white trim paint., but the barn glistened with its new coat. The same year it was reroofed with 6,000 T-Lock shingles. It has been well maintained since.

The ranch has been owned by Gene Walsh since 1957.

By Lois Walsh

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Another barn on the Historic Barn Tour Field Trip was the Jumping Horse Ranch Barn. The Jumping Horse Ranch has a long, storied history in the Madison Valley so this is a very appropriate time to share the *History of the Jumping Horse Ranch* by Robert Beck with Nancy Lien Griffin with research by Helene Beck. Both Robert and Helene are long time MVHA members. (The first edition of this history was printed in October, 1989 during Montana's Centennial Year and the second Edition January, 1997.)

The past lives all around us. It lives in dusty family histories and in the memories of old timers and in the traces left behind by those who worked the land. The early pioneers of the Madison Valley survived rough winters and dry summers to carve out a subsistence existence for their families. Each owner of the land that later became the Jumping Horse Ranch proved to not really possess the land but only handed it on to the next owner. Each owner of the land served as a steward participating in life's regeneration and felt the land's eternal power. People came and people left but the land endures as a testament.

Nestled among the foothills of the Spanish Peaks in the Rocky Mountains of Montana, the Jumping Horse Ranch faces west across the valley of the Madison River to the Tobacco Root Mountains. This sprawling ranch sits in the shadow of Fan Mountain. This great granite peak, a regional landmark, is so named because of the prominent alluvial fan that has developed over eons at the mountain's base through the gradual deposition of materials by the nearby Cedar Creek flowing out of the Madison Mountain Range.

Alluvial fan formations, often found in other mountainous regions, are nowhere as pronounced as this "fan" of the Madison Range. Such formations only occur in dry areas where stream flow from the spring snow melt gains great velocity as the water finds its way to the valley floor. The rushing water washes rocks and soil out of the mountains to build the "fan." The streams in the Madison Valley lose elevation rapidly in the high mountains and are slowed only by the intermediate

terrain composed of the materials collected in alluvial fans, known locally as "benches."

The Jumping Horse Ranch is located along the crests of several Madison Valley benches, eight miles east of the town of Ennis. The ranch spans tumbling 5 mountain streams-Jack Creek, Jordan Creek, Crooked Creek, Watkins Creek and Short Creek-which drains the snow melt from the high mountains down to the sparking Madison River far below.

The earliest history of the Madison Valley credits the land of the Jumping Horse Ranch as being the birthplace of an Indian chief whose family lived each summer in the Madison Valley. Ten Doy was so named by his father, Tanchanica (Tanca'hanca), chief of the Bannack tribe, because on the day of Ten Doy's birth, his father looked out of the wigwam to see ten boys coasting down a nearby hill using slabs of elk hide for their sleds. It was the Indian custom to name their children after the first thing they saw upon the birth(Ten Boy later became Ten Doy.) James Spray in his manuscript titled "Early Days in the Madison Valley" places Ten Doy's birth in the winter of 1822-23 "near the location of the Paugh Ranch on Jack Creek."

Ten Doy was the son of Tanchanica and the grandson of White Bear, the elder for whom this clan of the Bannack tribe was named. The White Bear clan roamed a wide expanse of territory from the middle of Nevada, to central Montana, and from central Wyoming to Idaho. They were a small and peaceable band. In fact, the White Bears boasted that they had never shed the blood of a white man.

Former workers at the Jumping Horse Ranch claim that rocks with Indian paintings still adorn caves on the upper parts of the ranch, and that large rock formations probably arranged as hunting blinds are evidence of Indian settlement on the ranch.

Pioneers Many early settlers claimed land within the borders of the present day Jumping Horse Ranch. Some of the valley's first and most prominent settlers, or members of their families, were among their numbers. Names like William Ennis, M.D.Jeffers, E.A.Maynard, Andrew Switzer and George Watkins are peppered throughout any history of the Madison Valley. Some pioneers left virtually no records. Settlers like L.S. Briggs, Erastus Paugh, Ernest, Charles and John Vetter, Tim Crandall, Harold and Chester Bower, William Maginess, Edgar Michener or Pat Daiey are known to us because we are fortunate enough to have surviving family members to tell their stories. The others have left their mark only in the dusty pages of county land records or in the memories of those who were just children when they died.

Many of the early patents on the Jumping Horse Ranch were small 160 acre parcels, although some settlers such as E.A.Maynard, purchased full sections from the Northern Pacific Railroad patents. The more determined settlers claimed additional patents or purchased claims when the original settlers moved on.

Most notable of the early homesteaders is Erastus Paugh who claimed

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 12 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2014

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

From the Wagon Seat: I trust that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and that 2014 will be a happy, healthy New Year for each of you. Your MVHA board is still working, discussing, and implementing events for the history members and the community.

In October our meeting was held at the Fish Bowl Lanes for a history of bowling and of the Fish Bowl Lanes. John Heckler gave a very interesting talk on the history of bowling from the very first stone rolled to knock down a stone pin. Shirley Storey was not able to attend but she wrote a history of the beginning of the Fish Bowl Lanes. (See her story in this issue.) Tom Erdie, former resident who grew up in Ennis gave the history of Erdie's Bar which had a two lane bowling alley and he told of his experiences there. Many of you had jobs setting pins at that alley as I did and you all have your stories to tell. Please share them. In November we revisited the Jack Creek Ski area with a program by Tom Erdie entitled "Jack Creek Ski Hill through the eyes of a 12 year old" and actual video in 16mm taken by Claude Angle and put to disc by Larry Love and Otis Thompson. It was pretty hilarious when looking at and hearing about the equipment that was used in the late '40's and '50's. December found us at Trinity Church for our annual Christmas potluck meeting. Gifts were exchanged, traditions of Christmas celebrations were shared including one from Aberdeen, Scotland (see from the e mail box) and Christmas songs were sung.

The MVHA Board would like to have your ideas on programs, ideas on the direction you would like to see our museum and organization grow and anything in general that you might have to share. Remember, MVHA is your organization so let us know your thoughts. We need people to give some programs, serve on committees, be a board member, submit stories to the Wagon Tongue and take an active part in your organization. You do not have to live here to help out. Ideas from our members who live far away can be used.

The MVHA continues to be the source for Madison Valley history information. Most recent requests have been for information on the history of Clute's Camp and the folks from the Sun Ranch are writing a history of the ranch and called to request any information that the MVHA would have. Our historian, Don Black, is working on these requests, but if any of our members or readers of the Wagon Tongue have stories or information, please submit them to the MVHA.

We have programs planned for February, March and April but need help for the spring and summer. Remember that March 17 is our annual William Ennis Birthday Celebration day. Stay warm, stay healthy, watch the gorge and pay attention to the preservation and sharing of the history of the Madison Valley. Larry Love, Wagon Master
++++
Pile up on the Bridge by T. B. Long About 1900, Paul Jeffers and I took a herd of about 600 cows to the summer range. Leaving the Madison Valley, the cows handled easy and moved fast, after getting strung out for about two miles. The entire trip was fifty miles and we made half of it the first day, camping at Deer Creek that night. The next morning the cows wanted to travel fast, and everything went smoothly until we got to the bridge over the Madison River at Hutchins.

This bridge had been built years before by Matt Dunham. The construction was of heavy timbers with split poles for the floor. It had been a toll bridge, but the County had purchased it. The location was just upstream from where the West Fork enters the river, a very fast stream but comparatively shallow. Ordinarily, we would have forded the river with our herd, but not this time, for the cattle had another idea!

About a half mile from the bridge, something spooked the cows, and as they felt fresh and wanted to run anyway, they took off up the road at a high run. I was in the lead and there was no turning the leaders. There was nothing to do but let them cross the bridge.

I got across with about fifty head, when all at once a pole in the flooring broke and flew straight up in the faces of the oncoming cows. Startled, the leaders stopped short. The sudden weight placed in one spot broke the center span, plunging cows, bridge and all into the river. When all things stopped falling, I rode into the river to see what I could do to straighten the mess out. The water was swift and between two and three feet deep. The cows were getting out and scampering to safety on the bank. None appeared to be injured. I looked up at the skeleton of the bridge and my mouth dropped open in surprise, for there one of the piers stood a cow with all four feet bunched on the small top of the pier with nothing around her but space! Shaking out my rope, I rode into the river and catching the cow by the neck, I pulled her over backwards into the river with a splash. She gained her feet at once, uninjured. Paul and I forded the river with the rest of the herd, got the herd strung out once more and continued on, reaching our destination that night without further incident. We could not believe that such a thing could happen and not hurt one cow, but it had.

70 Years a Cowboy by T. B Long pages 2 and 3

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the October issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Erdie, Tom & Irene (I) 406-458-6301
9017 Douglas Circle
Helena, MT 59602

Finkle, Bryan (B) 682-4553
P.O. Box 204
Cameron, Mt 59720

Losee, Jonathan (I)
1661 W. 2nd Ave. #102

Vancouver, B. C. Canada V6J1H3

Scholler, Dan (I)
P.O. Box 892
Ennis, MT 59729

June Haigh was part of the Montana World War II Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C. in Sept. 2013. The article about his trip can be found in the Thurs. Oct. 3, 2013 *Madisonian* Lifestyles page.

Keith Axberg, solo of *O Holy Night*, **Vurnie Kaye Barnett, Jan** and **Bob Beekman, Vickie Gordon**, accompanist, **Larry Love**, solo of *Let It be Christmas*, and **Jan Smith**, in trio of *Boogie Woogie Santa*, all sang in the annual Community Christmas Concert for two performances before Christmas. MVHA members made up almost half of the participants so made a great contribution to the Christmas event. They not only work at preserving history in the Madison Valley but they were part of the history!

Please send any member news to the editor so any special news of our members can be included in the Wagon Tongue and special things our members do will not be missed.

Memories

James Neil Thompson age 86, long time MVHA member, passed away on Oct. 18, 2013. He was born in Billings, MT to Thomas C. and Marie (Nielsen) Thompson. He grew up on a cattle ranch near Ennis, now owned by the Lois Walsh family. His history in the Madison Valley is preserved by his initials on the barn door of the beautiful red barn on the Walsh ranch. **Paul W. Tillinger, Jr.** passed away on Nov. 3, 2013 in Billings. He was born on May 26, 1928 in Ennis, Mont., the son of Paul Vendal Tillinger, who came from Noemaec, Austria, Hungary. and Veronika, who came from Sutmara, Austria, Hungary. His parents first settled in the Madison Valley in December, 1927. They leased the Ennis Homestead where they lived for three years, then moved to the Gilmer ranch, south of Ennis, which they leased until 1933. They then moved back to the Ennis Homestead and purchased it. In 1936, they bought the Robert Wilson ranch near McAllister. Paul grew up in Ennis and attended Ennis grade and high school, graduating in May 1947. He helped operate both ranches. They operated a dairy in Ennis and ranched on the Robert Wilson place, where they raised cattle, hay and grain. Paul took over both places when his father became ill about 1960 and passed away in 1972. He continued to operate both ranches and in 1977, sold the Robert Wilson ranch to Ben Johnson Montana Properties, which is now known as Troutdale. *Progressive Years, Madison County, Montana Vol II* pg 791-792

Norma E. Miller, age 92, passed away Nov. 19, 2013 at her home. She was born on Nov, 19, 1921 in Hardin, MT. the daughter of Herbert A and Bonnie Howard Williams. She grew up on the family farm north of Hardin, attended a rural school at Fairview, graduated from Hardin High School and Billings Business College. In 1945, she married Edward F. Miller, lived on various farms and ranches and in 1956 moved to Ennis.

Membership Update 2013 memberships are now overdue. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2014 membership is due during Jan, Feb., or Mar., or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

Member News

Mary Ann Alger has moved to be closer to her daughters. If you would like to keep in touch with her, call her brother, Don "Kid" Neville at 682-4321 or sister, Darlene Neville Rochez at. (702)452-9346

Chuck Bennetts, had a big birthday on Dec. 15, 2013 and turned the big 100 years young. He now has the distinguished status of honorary member in the MVHA. Happy Birthday, Chuck, and many more. **Jerry Stalcup**, of Anacortes, Washington has moved without notifying us of his new address and his Wagon Tongue was returned to the MVHA in October. If anyone knows of his new address or where he is now living please let the MVHA know of his new address.

Errol Hill of Las Vegas, Nevada also had his October Wagon Tongue returned and the MVHA does not have a new address for him. Can anyone help?

Memories continued on page 3

Judy Marie Roedel, long time MVHA member, passed away Nov. 26, 2013. She was born on Aug. 6, 1953 in Ennis to Frank and Hetty (Bennetts) Carlson. Judy's mother, Hetty, was born on Jan 24, 1917 at Varney, MT. Judy's grandparents, John and Hetty Bennetts, were English immigrants. Mother, Hetty, was the youngest of 11 children. Her father died when she was 3 years old. She grew up on the family homestead and attended a one room school house at Varney. She shared a one room cabin in Ennis with her brother and sister while attending high school there. She was one of the graduating seniors in the class of 1935. Hetty then moved back to the homestead and helped her mother run the place. She made many hand made items such as quilts, bedspreads and afghans by the light of a kerosene lantern. She married Frank Carlson in Dillon on March 10, 1942. Frank was born October 22, 1909 at Cameron, MT. His parents were Charles and Charlotta and were of Swedish descent. Charles attended schools at Cameron, Ennis and the School of Mines at Butte. He drove gas truck for Frank Falbaum who owned the Cameron Store. In 1935, he was employed by the Montana Power Company as line foreman until March 20, 1942 when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served 3 years during WW II at North Africa and Italy. After his return to the Madison Valley, he and Hetty bought the farm at Varney from Hetty's mother. They had two children, James Leonard born in 1950 and Judy Marie born in 1953. (*Progressive Years Madison County, Montana* pg. 725 Frank and Hetty Milroy (Bennetts) Carlson)

Judy attended Ennis Elementary and graduated from Ennis High School in 1971. She attended Montana State University Western in Dillon and married Dwayne Roedel on Nov. 24, 1973. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary shortly before her passing. Judy worked for the talc mine and for the next 38 years worked at the First Madison Valley Bank until her death. She, her brother, Jimmy, and other history members did the Varney display on the history wall at the First Madison Valley Bank which was a great contribution to the history of the Madison Valley.

Mary Lou Appleby passed away on Dec. 6, 2013. She was born in Williston, N.D. on Dec. 25, 1934 to Arthur and Olive Hagenston. She was raised in Glendive, MT. graduating from Glendive High School in 1953. Her first marriage was to David Rooney and lived in Minneapolis, Inn. She then returned to Montana and married Michael Appleby. They built a home near Ennis and Mary Lou was active in the Presbyterian Church and Madison Valley Woman's Club.

Gene Curtis Wilkins passed away on Dec. 27, 2013. He was born to Grover and Fern Wilkins in Kennard, Neb. on Aug. 21, 1931. He graduated from high school in Arlington and graduated from the University of Nebraska. Upon completion of his military service, he returned to the University of Nebraska and received a second degree in medicine and began his medical

career in York, Neb. While practicing in York, he was contacted by Dr. Ron Losee who was seeking someone to assist the medical needs of the community. Gene visited Ennis and being a skier, hunter and fisherman, he took the invitation and moved his young family to the Madison Valley and set up his own practice, started the EMT training program and recruited the first PA, Ron Handlos. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and member of Masonic Lodge #2 and was a hospital board member.

Additional memories of these departed folks or any other folks are welcome at any time. Their stories are part of the history of the Madison Valley.

The program for October was the History of the Bowling Alley in Ennis. John Heckler gave a great history of the sport of bowling from the very early days and Shirley Storey gave us history of the Fish Bowl Lanes from the beginning in Ennis.

The Fish Bowl by Shirley Storey

We had three small boys and wanted to raise them here. Just had to make a living while doing it. (Some things never change!) Bob had gone to mortuary school in California and tried to buy out the local mortician (Charlie Raper) and Charlie backed out of the deal at the last minute.

We had borrowed money so Bob decided to build a bowling alley. We borrowed more money and my uncle from Missoula, a master mason, came and laid the cinder block in one weekend.

When we started building, lots of local guys came and worked after hours and on weekends for \$4.00 an hour. I remember Jack Brooks said he paid for his carpeting that way. The workers just put down their hours on a piece of paper. Bicyclists from France and Germany worked and slept in Storey's back yard.

Bob went to school in California to learn the mechanics of the machines. Bill Bennett and I were left in charge. Brunswick came and laid the hardwood alleys and installed the machines. Bob had a room all plumbed for a bar. (Every bowling alley in Montana had a bar!)

Ennis had five bars in the vicinity at that time. I said to Bob, "Honey, if you need a bar, that's fine, but I will go home and raise the kids. I'm not the best help you will ever have, but I am the cheapest!" Who else would work 12 to 15 hours a day for no pay? Needless to say, we had a rec. room instead of a bar!

In the fall of 1963, we opened with the newest A-2 Brunswick machines and a great deal of fanfare. Gordon Sheffield did a lot of the secretary work and his wife, Cathy, was our youth group teacher.

We had two shifts of bowlers on Monday (women), three shifts on Tuesday (afternoon, women and two at night for men) two shifts of mixed on Wednesday, kids leagues on Thursday and two shifts of West Yellowstone mixed on Friday. Tournaments were every week end.

The bowling alley became a meeting place for kids.

The bowling alley also was a meeting place for kids to meet their parents. After ball games, we stayed open till all the buses got home. It became a great social place for everyone.

We had great support from the community and close ties with all the kids. We had over 100 kids in our bowling program.

I fixed a special every day for lunch in the 16 seat snack bar and served Grandma Baker's wonderful pies. We fed bus loads of kids from school functions.

After almost 20 years, Bob ran for and was elected to Chief Executive of the County. We sold the alley to Art and Laura Dywer because we felt their values would be much like ours.

It was a busy and rewarding time in my life. by Shirley Storey

Thank you, Shirley, for sharing your history of the Fish Bowl Lanes .Does anyone have any other bowling stories to share with the readers of the Wagon Tongue?

History of the Jumping Horse Ranch by Robert Beck with Nancy Lien Griffin with research by Helene Beck In the October issue, we left Erastus Paugh selling the ranch property to Minnie Vetter Paugh's younger brother, Ernest Vetter.

Jumping Horse Ranch History (continued)

The Veters were a close knit family group. The six children of the Vetter family all eventually migrated from Missouri to the Madison Valley. The first to arrive was Charles, who claimed a ranch on Jack Creek in 1888, adjacent to the tree claim Erastus Paugh had then occupied for six years. In 1900 Charles moved to Canada and his younger brother, John, who had saved enough from his labors as a ranch hand, bought the ranch. The property, which became known as the "John Vetter Ranch," sits across the Jack Creek Road to the south of the Jumping Horse Ranch headquarters.

The older Vetter girls, Minnie and Mary, came west in 1888 to join their brother Charles. Several years later the rest of the Vetter family, Ernest and Florence, came to the Madison Valley. The Vetter children were probably led to the Madison Valley by their uncle, also named John Vetter, who started a shoe shop in Virginia City in 1863.

Uncle John Vetter was noted for his pioneer work in the care of the insane. It was a loan from John Vetter which built the mental hospital in Warm Springs, and Uncle John worked at the hospital until it became a state institution in 1912. Ernest Vetter, the youngest of the Vetter boys, also worked at the hospital, and it was that position and ranch labor employment that allowed him to save the money to buy the Erastus Paugh homestead.

Erastus' son, Ralph, claims that his father made the decisions to sell the ranch to Ernest Vetter, because "he was family and needed a place." Erastus immediately plunked down the sum paid by him to Ernest Vetter

on a new ranch, located across the Jack Creek Road to the southwest of his original tree claim. This ranch, operated by Erastus Paugh and his sons for another 22 years, is now the site of the manager's house at the Jumping Horse Ranch.

Paugh's new ranch site was purchased by Paugh from Tim Switzer, one of the Madison Valley's earliest settlers. Tim's two older sisters had married the Jeffers brothers, who at the time controlled much of the agricultural commerce in the Madison Valley, and the two families considered themselves among the elite of the area. Switzer's brother-in-law, Myron Jeffers, was one of the wealthiest men in the Valley.

Many locals remember Tim as a hard working man with a stable family. Although not considered exceptionally rowdy, Switzer is remembered as the cowboy who roped a steer and put it in the newly constructed Episcopal Church in Jeffers one Halloween night.

Tim's wife's parents both died within that year, and although he had held the position of foreman for his brother-in-law, M. D. Jeffers, it was in 1900 that he began his own business as a livestock broker and was frequently gone from the valley.

Nearly four years after Ernest Vetter purchased the original Paugh ranch, he purchased the adjacent ranch from his brother, John. Ernest was responsible for the first consolidation of present day Jumping Horse Ranch properties and he expanded his operation from a single section of land to a 1,260 acre operation which supported 600 head of cattle and 80 head of horses. The modern cowman may protest that this arrangement would be overstocking the ranch, but the figures were reported in local history by members of Vetter's family.

Local residents recall the Vetter's as a close knit family and that Ernest was a "rough old guy" who wasn't very talkative. Mrs. Vetter was remembered as being a big lady who was a "really good cook." Their home, one of the largest in the valley at the time, has since been moved from the Jumping Horse Ranch property, and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Jones, located south of the community of Jeffers.

It is the Paugh-Vetter ranches which constitute the heart of the Jumping Horse Ranch. To aid the confused observer of Jumping Horse Ranch history, this account will begin at the southern ranch boundary(on Cedar Creek bench) and working upward to the northern boundary (near Ennis Lake), with an attempt to resurrect from the past those hardy pioneers who left their mark on this unique place.

A notable early settler was Tim Crandall, who operated a saw mill on Cedar Creek bench, later the site of a Jumping Horse Ranch irrigated hay fields. Crandall was a "kleptomaniac and everyone knew it" say local residents. Several valley residents recall that after Crandall had helped on threshing crews all the shovels and chains would be missing. Then a few months later some one would find them stashed in a building or in a storage tank on Crandall's property. One story, the accuracy not to be doubted, was that Crandall excused himself early from a gathering

Jumping Horse Ranch History continued on pg. 5

to teasing that he “had to get home to his wife,” when he actually returned to a worksite to lug a large steel bar by horseback uphill for 2 & 1/2 miles to his house.

Another Crandall story is that when his workbench was dismantled for moving, it yielded missing hardware for construction of the Ernest Vetter house. Crandall’s behavior was apparently tolerated by the community and locals refer to his thievery with well intentioned humor.

In some cases the trail of the early pioneers is a difficult one to follow. One such pioneer is L. S. Briggs, an early Madison Valley stockman. It seems he was no small operator, yet his written history is obscure. John Vetter and Ernest Vetter both worked for Briggs, saving enough of their paychecks to purchase adjacent property for their own ranches. Briggs was married for a brief time, and had one son, who was reportedly retarded. He lived in the Madison Valley for most of his life, but moved to Bozeman prior to his death.

In 1907 Florence Jeffers, wife of M.D.Jeffers, purchased nearly two and one half sections of the Jumping Horse land from Briggs. M.D.Jeffers is probably the best remembered Madison Valley cattleman and is responsible for bringing the first herds of cattle to the Madison Valley. Jeffers made three cattle drives from Texas and navigated a stock trail into Montana which circumvented the hostile Indian territory encountered by Nelson Storey, a Gallatin Valley pioneer credited with the state’s first stock drives. “Everything M.D.Jeffers touched turned to gold,” is the epitaph given by Madison Valley locals.

In 1917 Mrs. Jeffers turned over control of her ‘bench’ property to her son Fayette Jeffers. Fay and his wife, Winifred Chowning, Jeffers settled on the property, south of the Jack Creek Road. Fay and his family lived on the Jack Creek ranch for 16 years, but Winifred, the granddaughter of William Ennis, had close family ties in Ennis and spent a good part of her time in town. The Jeffers family finally moved to town in 1934 and short-ly after that Mrs. Fay (Winifred) Jeffers became the third member of her family to be commissioned as Post master for the town of Ennis. The Fay Jeffers house is presently used as employee housing and is located east of the Jumping Horse Ranch headquarters and south of the Jack Creek Road.

The Ennis-Jeffers marriage of Winifred and Fay was another of the interesting family alliances forged throughout the history of the Madison Valley. Fay’s father, M.D.Jeffers controlled agricultural interests; Winifred’s grandfather, William Ennis, controlled commercial interests.

continued on page 6

From the e mail box

The MVHA mail has become modern and folks are using the internet to communicate with us.

After the notice of the annual Christmas luncheon program this Christmas Tradition was sent by Roger White, our Foreman descendent from Aberdeen, Scotland:

Dear MVHA members

I had an e-mail from Larry reminding me that the Association has its Christmas luncheon tomorrow in Jeffers. The chances of my getting there from Aberdeen in Scotland are zero. But I will raise a glass of Scotch whisky in honor of you and your interest in the history of Madison Valley.

Members were asked to share a family Christmas tradition so even if this note does not see the light of day, I thought I would do that. Some of you may have read in the MVHA newsletter that my interest in Montana comes from the fact that an ancestor, William John Foreman, emigrated to Virginia City in the 19th century. One of your members, Bobby Foreman, is a descendant of William’s, so I thought I should describe a tradition that came to me from my Foreman family, my mother’s side of my family tree.

We have a traditional dessert in Britain called Christmas pudding, or plum pudding, that we eat with our turkey meal on Christmas Day. If you’ve not had it, it’s difficult to describe although you’ll find recipes for it online. It is very rich, with butter, eggs, lots of preserved fruit and a dash of brandy. A month or so before Christmas, my mother would make two puddings, one to be eaten on the day itself, another to be stored for a special family occasion later in the year. The pudding needed a lot of stirring with a wooden spoon before it was cooked (for hours in a steamer). The ritual of preparation involved every member of the family helping to stir the raw mixture. As a child I was under strict instruction to make a wish for Christmas and, if I told no-one, the wish would come true. Since I usually wished for a particular toy for a Christmas present, and since my parents had already seen my list for Santa, my wish usually came true, which only goes to prove that the tradition works! I was always envious of friends whose mothers put a small coin (a ‘sixpence’) in the pudding for the lucky finder to keep if it was in their portion. My mother would never do this because she said it was unhygienic and we might bite on it and damage our teeth. I wonder if any of this has survived in Bobby’s family? I wish all of you ‘a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.’ Roger White

(edited by editor because the photos did not copy for this printing)

Greetings to the MVHA membership also came from Karen (Neely) Marinos, Carl & Susie Yeckel, Marian Morton , Janet Allstad, and Doris (Wonder) and Steve Sherrick.

Also from Carl Yeckel after Texas was hit with ice storms: In Montana we have snow; in Texas it is ice. Montana, we get out, feed, push the snow out of the way, maybe mend fence and go on. Here, we hole up, avoid the roads, do not clean the walks and the city announces that all eight of their sand trucks are ready! I will say that the ice destroys trees, which means the streets, alleyways will be blocked for days as it is frowned upon to cut up the down timber; as no one has a chain saw. I am the only one in the county with a snow shovel! Over thirty years old, I brought it with me.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Black, Dee & Linda (F) 605-347-7968

P.O. Box 113

St. Onge, SD 57779

Campbell, Charlie (I) 970-402-6704

P.O. Box 153

Ennis, MT 59729

Edgmond, Barbara (I)

625 E. Davis

Bozeman, MT 59715

Jackson, Tim & Roberta (F) 406-685-3391

P.O. Box 2855

Norris, MT 59745

Kidd, Alice (F) 253-677-8618

P.O. Box 4025

Gleed, WA 98904

Pierce, Barbara (I) 570-0711

P.O. Box 1032

Ennis, MT 59729

Robison, Lee (F) 301-518-9486

P.O. Box 6103

McAllister, MT 59740

VanWingen, Rachel (I) 682-3036

52 Bowtine Lane 59729

Ennis, MT 59729

Membership Update 2013 memberships are now overdue. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2013 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2014 membership is due during April, May., or June, or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

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If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

Member News

Donna Bausch, long time MVHA benefactor, celebrated her 95th birthday on Jan, 18. Donna's great granddaughter, McKinley Murphy, also celebrated her 2nd birthday with her great grandmother. Happy

Birthday to both of the birthday girls.

The musicians in our group are still busy. After months of practice, Larry Love on Saxophone and Vicky Gordon on Flute joined their other community band members for a concert on April 10. If any other history members or their family or friends would like to dust off their old instruments, the community band is welcoming new members to start any time. Playing your instrument is like riding a bicycle, you never forget. Just have to start practicing. Contact Larry or Vicky for more info.

Check out the Thursday, Feb. 13, 2014 issue of the *Madisonian* Lifestyles page for Jack Reints: Jeffers staple and generous neighbor. Great story about one of the pieces of history in the Madison Valley. Jack is brother to Elso, long time MVHA member. Maybe we can get Jack to join up since he is now a piece of history!

Memories

Addie Beth Stiles passed away at the Ruby Dell Ranch near Alder on Dec. 31, 2013. Addie was born in Sheridan, MT to Mary (Carey) and Lester E. Stiles on Aug. 11, 1953. Addie spent her life in Virginia City and then Nevada City for several years when the family home was destroyed by fire in 1962. Addie's mother was employed at Nevada City by Bovey Restorations where she was in charge of the hotel, motel and exhibits from 1962 to 1966. In April of 1967 Paul H. Love appointed Mary his Deputy Clerk of Court. When Paul retired at the end of 1971, Mary was appointed to fill his office, a position which her father Matt Carey had held from 1909 to 1936.

Addie attended school in Virginia City and Ennis and graduated from Bozeman High School. She also attended Bozeman Vo-Tech. She married Jerry Mason in 1979, lived in Virginia City and had two daughters, Ashlee and Amber Rose. In 2003, Addie moved to the Anderson Ruby Dell Ranch with her fiancé, Jim Anderson. Progressive Years, pg. 21 Mary (Carey) Stiles **Virge Margaret McDaniel** (Tad) passed away Jan 5, 2014 at the age of 102 at her home in Tillamook, OR. She was born on a sheep ranch near Belle Fourche, S.D. on July 30, 1911 to Denver and Jennie(Close) Tidball. When she was only 1, the family of five spent several summers living in a sheep wagon out on the open range with their large band of sheep. Virge spent time in Colorado, returning to South Dakota and after graduation from high school, she continued to work in a general store and there she met a young Texan, J.P. McDaniel and they married in 1935. The following year they moved to Montana and operated a general store, gas station and small trucking company in Pony, MT for about 10 years. Relocating to Ennis, MT they continued in the grocery business and further expanded to include a meat market, locker plant and garage. This was located where the West of the Madison building is now. In 1953, they followed J.P.'s dream and moved

continued on page 3

Memories *continued from page 2*

to Alaska. They sold the Ennis market to McQuaigs and eventually Restvedts operated a store and meat market there before moving up to where the current Deemo's location is located.

Jerry L. Krusemark passed away on Jan. 9, 2014 at Generations Assisted Living in Ennis. He was born on April 7, 1931 on a farm near Truman, Minn. to Lester and Mildred(Linn)Krusemark. After schooling, military and early work, Jerry began driving truck for 19 years and in 1989 moved to the Madison Valley continuing to drive truck until his retirement in 1996. After retirement he began driving school bus for the Ennis Schools.

Rodney E 'Sandy' Sandell passed away on Jan. 17, 2014 in Carmel, Ind. He was born in San Diego, CA on March 14, 1923, to Alfred E. and Doris Baker Sandell. Sandy was an active member of the Ennis Lion's Club and worked summers in Yellowstone National Park for many years before moving to Carmel, Ind.

James Curtis Carpenter passed away on Feb. 27, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was born in 1938 in Choteau, MT to Edward and Edna Carpenter. James grew up in the Madison Valley near Ennis where he began training horses at young age and got a reputation as a gifted horse trainer.

Henrietta 'Penny' Cusack passed away Feb., 2014 in Ketchikan, AK. She was born in Ennis, MT to Grace and Wilson Clark on Dec 14, 1940. After graduating from high school in Ennis in 1958, she attended Columbus School of Nursing in Great Falls, MT. She worked in Ennis for a short time, then on to San Jose, CA and went on to a brand new hospital in Ketchikan, AK to continue her nursing career. She met Mike Cusack on a blind date and married in April, 1964.

Larry Gleason, long time MVHA member, passed away in the Madison Valley Hospital in Ennis, MT on Feb. 11, 2014. He was born to Viola and Albert Gleason on Jan. 9, 1930 in Ellensburg, WA. While growing up in Washington, he learned to ride, rope and drive a team of horses. After graduation, he and Walt Miller planned to go to Mexico but they soon ran out of money and came to Ennis where Walt's mother, Ida Schooler, ran a cafe. Larry washed dishes there to pay for his keep and soon used his early training to obtain ranch hand jobs. Larry continued to work for some of the big Madison Valley ranches and competed in amateur rodeos as a rodeo clown with Gene Warburton. He also did some actual rodeoing and was tri-state steer wrestling champ in 1955.

He met Ruby Faraasen from Hinsdale, Mt and they were married in Ennis in 1956. In 1958, Ruby and Ida Schooler started the Dairy Queen and Larry started working at the Texaco Station on main street which he operated for 16 years. He then teamed up with Ruby at the Dairy Queen and operated it until 1995.

Jonathan Losee of Vancouver, B. C. shared a memory of his for Larry Gleason. "In 1960, my dad got me a go-cart. He had John Krause in Norris fabricate it from a thick piece of plywood, some scrap steel angle iron, four wheels and a lawn mower engine. For a

10 year old, it was instant freedom. It gave me the ability to noisily wheel around our big yard in front of the log house on Main Street of Ennis, and I wore out a muddy circuit in the grass over the summer, much to the chagrin of our landlord. The most fun though, was when my folks were not home, which was frequent as they spent all of their time at the hospital. I would venture out of the yard and bump along the gravel back streets I knew so well. I would motor past Jeffers', Evans', Tillingers', and Mainwarings' homes, Hickey's and Scully's motels, and being low on gas I would pull up to the Tex station, drive over the bell and shut down the engine.

Out of the station would come Larry Gleason, the tallest happiest man I knew in town. From my vantage point four inches above the ground, he was a giant outfitted in his Texaco issued uniform, greasy from years of oil changes and fixing flats. 'Fill'er up' I would say. He would laugh and look way down at me through those thick glasses and make a big fuss about me wanting gas. 'What kind of mileage do you get in that rig o' yers?' he would ask. 'Want me to check the oil?' Called me 'Young Doc' and filled up my quart tank taking no bother to accept money, which of course, I did not have, and assured me of making sure I took a safe route home along the back streets.

What a wonderful memory of a wonderful man, who gave our town many heartfelt smiles, clowning at the rodeo, flipping burgers at the DQ when it opened in May, making a big fuss over everything and everybody. He was certainly loved in the community and will be sorely missed." Thank you, Jonathan, for sharing.

David E. Beardsley passed away on Feb. 19, 2014 in Encinitas, CA. He was born on Oct. 14, 1931 in Elkhart, Ind., son of Edward and Olive Beardsley. He spent his childhood in Elkhart with frequent trips to Ennis where in 1949 his family built a cabin up Jack Creek. In 1954 he married Nancy Stahr Leadbeater of Elkhart. After time in the Navy, David earned a degree in animal husbandry from Montana State College in 1956. Returning to Ennis, he worked on local ranches and managed the Beardsley Stock Ranch on Varney Road for 10 years. In 1963 they moved to Bozeman where he owned and ran Long's Big O Tires and Alignment for 13 years. In 1978 the family moved to Scottsdale, AZ then moving to California.

Emerson 'Brooks' DeHony, long time MVHA member passed away Feb. 24, 2014 at the Central Wyoming Hospice in Casper, Wyo. Brooks was born in Ennis on April 21, 1927, to Merritt and Ada Dehony. A memory of Brooks is not complete without starting with his family. Brook's father, Merritt Brooks DeHony was born in Kansas City Missouri on Sept. 29, 1879. When he was 21 years old he possessed a desire to live in the frontier country of the Old West. He came to Montana for the first time in 1900 and returned to the Madison Valley on October 13, 1904 by stagecoach. He brought with him a small suitcase and his banjo. In 1915 he homesteaded west of Ennis. He married Ada Warwood

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Essay Winners *continued from page 4*
freight business from there. Before long he opened up other businesses, such as, a general store, a livery stable. He even opened up a post office, where he became the first postmaster, a job that kept on in his family for eighty four years.

Ennis died on July fourth in the year of 1898 from gunshot wounds. He was shot in Virginia City when he was on business. When he was standing outside of the hotel he was staying at, the Madison House, Martin Peel came up and shot him. This happened on June eighteenth in the same year he died. We don't know why he was shot but some say it was because of a feud between the two "old-timers".

Another reason I like him is because he was brave. He sailed over from Ireland when he was only fourteen to find a better life in the new world, and I believe he did just that. He founded a beautiful town, a place where he could live with his wife, Katherine Shriver Ennis, who was born in Ohio and who moved in with her parents when Ennis homesteaded and then moved back. That is some *history* of our town and it's founder, without him we wouldn't have Ennis.

Congratulation to our student winners. They both received gift certificates and a copy of Early Days of the Madison Valley by James Spray.

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History of the Jumping Horse Ranch by Robert Beck with Nancy Lein Griffin with research by Helene Beck. In the January issue, we left off with a short history of Ennis' founder, William Ennis being shot by Martin Peel. (Pioneers continued)

William Maginness located his claim to the east from the Jumping Horse Ranch headquarters, across the Jack Creek Road from the Fay Jeffers house. Maginness built a large home and although records of his family are difficult to trace, he is remembered as a "character", well liked by all who knew him. Ralph Paugh remembers that everyone in the community would stop by for a visit just to hear his stories, because he "had a million of them." Maginness was married for a short while, but his wife left and their daughter was raised in Denver. Maginness sold his ranch to Ernest Vetter in 1917.

Ralph Paugh remembers that his mother, Minnie Vetter Paugh, and Emma Maginness once set out on a journey by themselves with a team of horses and wagon bound for Dillon. This was not a shopping trip all pioneer women would have taken. Ralph Paugh said his mother told him of the trip many years later while they were driving along the same route. As they stopped at the old Painted Rocks stage station on the Beaverhead River near Dillon, Ralph said his mother noticed a large hole cut in the side of the station wall. She remembered her earlier wagon journey to Dillon. She and Mrs. Maginness had marveled over a large original painting of a buxom girl and a pitcher of beer which had formerly adorned this wall of the stage station.

County records indicate that Chester and Harold Bower, sons of Alexander "Chub" Bower, were 5

the first owners of a partial section along the eastern boundary of the Jumping Horse Ranch. The deed is recorded in 1920, a date much later than other property claims. Possibly the section was a state owned section which became for sale in that year. Chub Bower was 14 years old when he and his father came to the Madison Valley in 1864. Chub's mother died and his father remarried the sister of E.A. Maynard, a prominent early Madison Valley pioneer.

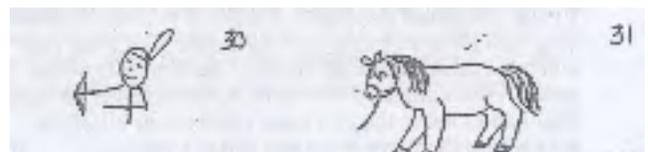
The northeastern sections of the Jumping Horse Ranch, known by Mountain Ranch, were originally a part of the property acquired by E. A. Maynard. Maynard built his home along the Madison River, but used the Mountain Ranch as summer pasture for his stock. Maynard arrived in Virginia City in 1864, one year after gold was discovered at Alder Gulch. He returned to Michigan in 1870 to marry Helen Briggs, the sister of L. S. Briggs. Maynard is credited with sowing the first grain in the valley, which was threshed by using horses to tramp it out on the ground. Contrary to the fate of the records of many obscure Madison Valley pioneers, the Maynard family is in possession of many letters and reminiscences of Ethyl Augustus Maynard. Maynard estimated there were 100 people in the Madison Valley when he arrived. A community social on New Year's Eve of 1865 brought 50 people, only 12 of whom were women.

The northwestern sections of the Jumping Horse Ranch were originally claimed by George Watkins, a colorful Madison Valley pioneer. The Madison County Museum in Virginia City has a large collection of Watkins family photographs and letters. Watkins, a former Pike's Peak freighter, like Switzer and Ennis, was one of the first residents of the valley. Later in his life, Watkins divided his ranch between his children, Irene Watkins, Stanfield Thatcher, Catherine Watkins, Richards Carrau, J. Spencer Watkins, and Andrew Jackson (Jack) Watkins. In 1919 the J. Spencer Watkins property was attached for a sheriff's sale, which apparently never reached conclusion. J. Spencer Watkins retained the property until 1931 when it was sold to Wetmore Hodges. Jack Watkins operated his portion of the Watkins ranch until 1978 when he sold the ranch to the Ben Johnson's Property Development Corporation. The property was to be subdivided into one hundred 20 acre parcels. This land use proposal drew substantial criticism from neighboring ranches and in 1980 was purchased by Robert Beck to prevent housing development encroachment in an agricultural land use region.

History of the Jumping Horse Ranch to be continued in July with Lewis Michner and Wetmore Hodges.

Montana Trivia Answers from January 2014

#28 Three Forks #29 Lima



For your Reading Pleasure

'Climbing Mountains in a Skirt' Women in Montana's History. Gary Forney, MVHA member and the Elling House Arts and Humanities Center, in cooperation with the Virginia City Preservation Alliance, and with support of the Humanities Montana, is presenting a lecture/discussion series celebrating Montana's Territorial Sesquicentennial and the contributions made to Montana history by some of its notable women. The programs will be held in the historic cabin of Frank and Minnie Linderman near Laurin, MT at "Robber's Roost". All presentations will be open to the public at no charge.

June 29, 2:00pm Pretty Shield, Medicine Woman of the Crow Dr. Kristen Ruppel, Assistant Professor of Native American Studies, Montana State University. Hosted by Friends of the Sheridan Library

July 17, 1:00pm Grace Stone Coates: Her Life in Letters Lee Rostad, author/historian Hosted by the Madison Valley Book Club

August 14, 6:30pm Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan Dr. Ellen Baumler: Interpretive Historian, Montana Historical Society

Looking Ahead

May 15, 2014 MVHA Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Time and place to be determined.

Museum open for Memorial Day Weekend May 24-26, 2014

June 10, 2014 Museum open for the summer season

Walk of Names Remember a family member with a Memorial on the Walk of Names. A great way to do a memorial or make a gift. MVHA's project for 2013 was to complete the deck and handicapped walkway to the Forge building. MVHA still does not have enough board orders to complete this project. Orders are being taken for the Walk of Names boards. You may order one for \$50 at the address below or by calling 682-5780 or 682-7415. Madison Valley History Association, Inc. P.O. Box 474 Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible. Boards are needed to complete the project.

Early Days of Madison County by James S. Spray and the MVHA Historic Cookbook are available for sale and make great gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, for birthdays or just a great gift for anyone. Check out the new "beast" packet with photo magnet. Great gift idea. Just contact MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729 or call 406-682-5780. or stop by the the museum over Memorial Day or when open for the season on June 10, 2014

From the eMail Box: Larry, I'm sorry to miss the meeting with the gorge stories. I have pictures of the year when the main stream of the river ran right below our house, approximately where the horseshoe pits are now. Dad had to move the cows and chickens as all of the area where the barns were and Baker's cabins,

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Larry Love
Vice-President: Otis Thompson
Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke
Secretary: Liz Applegate
Director and Historian: Don Black
Director: Devonna Owens
Director: Jimmy Carlson
Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. Board Meetings are held the **1st** Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room Oct. to April
Museum MVHA Office May to Oct.
The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2014.
Editor: Shirley Love
e-mail. whitneypranch@wispwest.net
Contributing editors:

Madisonian Obituaries
Jonathan Losee Memory of Larry Gleason
Progressive Years pg 21 Mary Carey Stiles
Pioneer Trails and Trials pg 47 Pearl Gairrett
I like William Ennis because..
Alyssa West and Ravyn Boyd
History of the Jumping Horse Ranch
by Robert and Helene Beck & Nancy Lien Griffin

Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank

now the Riverside Motel, were all sitting in water. Our house sits on a high enough foundation that we did not have water in the house. Dad wore his fishing boots around the yard and he had to carry me in and out of the house. The corps of engineers came in after the gorge and built the dike through our pasture, so that the river would no longer flow passed our house. I have pictures showing our house and the motel sitting in water. Margaret Ann Olson Crennen editor's note.. Margaret Ann believes this was around the early '40's.

From Karen Marinos:
Hi! Thank You for the info on tonight's gathering and wished I could be there but my job pulls me out of bed by 4:30 every morning and then on go til 2:00. I had to be in Bozeman yesterday and so won't make it but someday I will. Interested in the gorge history and pictures and stories so it is a bummer. We did learn that Johnny Matthew Kennedy had owned property that was overtook by the gorge and where it all happened is now the Jeffers River Access. Well hope you have a good turn out and be talking or hearing from you. Will tonight's presentation be in the news bulletin that you mail to us?

History Tidbit Dr. T. B. Marquis was the coach of the Madison Valley Antelopes baseball team. (D.Black)

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 12 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org
Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

July 2014

From the Wagon Seat: Wow! Summer has come on with vengeance. It is hot and humid. It has been a busy summer. Seems like it is going by way too fast. I hope your summer is going the way you want.

In May at the annual meeting, we adapted a working budget and elected Kevin Brenneke and Jimmy Carlson to another term on the board and elected Marty Brenneke to replace Don Black. Don will still continue as our historian and researcher. MVHA thanks all of you for stepping up to take these positions. The program was members sharing history tidbits of themselves and their families and the program was great and enjoyed by all. Lots of history out there!

Thanks to Otis Thompson, Marty Brenneke, Vergil Lindsey and Larry Love for finishing the handicapped ramp going to the forge building. It looks great and the walk of names continues down the ramp. Drop by and look at it.

Come to the museum and check out the latest display in the Fashion Room. Toni Scully and Kevin Brenneke painted the room, put down a floor covering and displayed a beautiful apron collection on loan to the MVHA by Toni Scully. It is certainly a step back in time! Thanks, Toni and Kevin

Also stop by the museum or better yet, when you are volunteering, check out the deck of historic Madison Valley playing cards the MVHA now has for sale in gift shop. Liz Applegate put this all together, finding photos and interviewing folks and working with the board to get a historically correct product. Thanks go to Liz for all her hard work.

In June the program was held at the museum with Tom Erdie presenting the program on Ennis High School baseball. Quite a few in the audience shared stories about Madison Valley Baseball. Also in June, the Board of Directors elected the same slate of officers as the previous year. Congratulations and thank you to all of the officers.

In July we had our field trip to the town of Ruby hosted by Charles Gilman and to Robber's Roost with Gary Forney sharing that history. After lunch some of the group stayed for the book talk by Lee Rostad on Grace Stone Coates: Her Life in Letters hosted by the Madison Valley Book Club at the Frank "Bird" Linderman cabin.

In August the field trip will be to the Power Plant and to the old Woodworth House that Gayle and Danette Clark have restored. The details for this event are still being worked on so stay tuned and plan to attend.

As we move into August, Bonnie Matsick will be our museum scheduler. If you haven't had an opportunity to help out at the museum this summer, give Bonnie a call at 682-4301. The MVHA really does need your help in order to keep the museum open on a regular basis.

We will be at the Nearly New Store in September for a hamburger BBQ and potluck with a history of Angle Hardware presented by Larry Love.

The MVHA is rolling along and with your help, ideas, suggestions and donations of time and money, we will continue to do so. Have a good summer. Keep the Wagons Rolling. Larry Love, MVHA president

As part of Lee Robison's presentation on the Woodworths in the Madison Valley at the April meeting of the Madison Valley History Association, he brought cookies that his wife Kathy made using Ida Woodworth McKee's recipe. The recipe comes down to us because it was recorded on a 3x5 notebook sheet by Ida's daughter, Zora McKee Armstrong. These cookies were a hit and Lee was asked to share it with the members of the MVHA.

Grams Sour Cream Cookies Zora left no instructions for baking the cookies but when Kathy made them, she preheated the oven to 375° and baked about 15 min. or until set making sure not to let them get too brown. For flavoring Kathy used 2 tsp vanilla. Could probably use lemon extract or ground cinnamon or cloves. Kathy substituted butter for lard. She melted the butter but that may have made the dough sticky so she suggests using room temperature butter. The dough was very sticky so Kathy spooned a cookie size portion from the dough, rolled this in a bowl of sugar and shaped into a ball before placing on a greased cookie sheet. She put the sheet of cookies in refrig for a few minutes.

Lemon Icing Kathy made an icing as follows:

1 - 1 1/2 cup confectionary sugar Juice from one lemon 3 eggs beaten in
1/4 cup butter Sprinkle of salt

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Roger, Barbara & John (F) 406-595-0902

P.O. Box 1220

Ennis, MT 59729

Vink, Linda & Pete (F) 682-4428

P.O. Box 282

McAllister, MT 59740

Membership Update 2014 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2014 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2014 membership is due during July, August, or September or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

Member News

Long time MVHA members, sisters Kathryn Wonder Brooks and Clarice Wonder Brooks were recently featured on the Thursday, June 5, 2014 *Madisonian* Lifestyles page with "From Indian Creek to Jeffers, the Wonder Family is a Madison Valley Staple" with a great family history of the Wonder family.

The Madison Valley is losing long time MVHA members, David and Bonnie (Owens) Bausch. They have sold their house and are moving to California to be closer to family. MVHA will miss them as they were contributing members. Bid them "so long" and hopefully we will see them back on visits to the Madison Valley.

Memories

Mary Ann McDonnell, long time MVHA member passed away in November 2013. No obituary or other information has been received yet about Mary Ann's passing.

Raymond George Carkeek passed away March 19, 2014 in Bozeman, Mt. Raymond was a long time MVHA member and his history goes back a long way 2

in the Madison Valley. Raymond was born at the family ranch near Cameron on June 28, 1922 to Pearl and George Carkeek. "Married at last" read the sign that friends tied to the honeymoon buggy in which Pearl and George rode off to Butte after their wedding on April 19, 1911 at the Storey home on Bear Creek.

George had come to work for Amos Storey several years before that and had "kept company" with Pearl most of the time. With wages at \$1 a day, it took a long time to save enough money for a down payment on 160 acres they were to buy and live on for the next fifty years.

Raymond's father, George was born in Pensilva, Cornwell, England, and came with his mother to America when he was 5 years old. George's father had come earlier to find work in the mines of the new world. He was working in Aspen, Co when his family arrived. Later they moved to Butte and remained there while the children were growing up. George shined shoes and all the children gathered coal that spilled from the trains and sold it by the sack to supplement the father's meager miner's pay.

George and his father came to the Madison and took up a homestead on Corral Creek.

Raymond's mother, Ethel Pearl Storey, was the oldest daughter of Amos and Lillie Storey, Madison County pioneers. She was born in their log home only one mile from where she was to spend the rest of her life.

George and Pearl bought the Boardman place. With that land and 80 acres given to Pearl by her father, the young couple started a ranch that was to encompass thousands of acres.

Raymond's primary education was in a one room school on Bear Creek. He graduated from Gallatin County High School in Bozeman, attended Montana State College in 1940-41 and his formal education was interrupted by WWII. After the war, he teamed up with his father to run the ranch. Raymond took over management of the ranch when his father retired. He also helped organize and charter the First Madison Valley Bank in Ennis. He sold the ranch in 1970 and moved to West Yellowstone and opened a real estate office.

Jean Baker Armstrong passed away on April 1, 2014. Jean was a long time MVHA member and historian. Community members depended on her to answer many history questions.

Jean was born at home on April 23, 1924 at the Valley Garden Ranch near Ennis to Harry and Lydia "Ollie" Baker. Her father, Harry, was born in Virginia City, Mt. Mother, Lydia Olive Vetter, came from Mount Helly, Ohio with her mother, Harriet Vetter, to join her father, Charles E. Vetter, who had leased a farm on Jack Creek, which is now part of the Jumping Horse Ranch.

On that trip West, Ollie and her mother came by train to Bozeman and then by stage to Red Bluff where Charles met them. They then bought the Belle Jeffers Ranch. Ollie started the 8th grade at the Jack Creek School and worked for different farmers and ranchers in the valley doing cooking and housework. (cont. pg. 3)

Memories continued from page 2

Ollie and Harry were both employed at the Valley Garden Ranch, she as a cook and he as a farm laborer, where they met and later married on July 1, 1910. After their marriage, they moved to Virginia City where Harry worked in a livery stable for a year or two. They moved back to the Madison Valley and went to work at the Tom Hodgens Ranch. That fall they went to work at the Granite Mountain Ranch (old Butler Ranch, later known as the Sun Ranch). From there, the Bakers moved back to Virginia City and later to Ennis where Harry worked in a livery stable for Art Nelson. Following that he worked on various ranches in the valley, including the Valley Garden. They moved into town and ran a cafe for a couple of years and then back to the Valley Garden which Harry leased. Lilah Jean was born there in 1924. They ranched for two years at the Old Elling Ranch (Al Thexton's) in Varney and then leased the Green Acre Ranch near McAllister. They again moved into Ennis in 1931 and had a restaurant as well as a bakery. Jean attended school in Ennis and married Robert Armstrong, son of Frank and Zora (McKee) Armstrong, on May 24, 1943. Jean worked as a waitress, loving her job. She first worked for the family owned Baker's Cafe which is now known as the Ennis Cafe. She later worked at Bette's Cafe.

Kathy K. Sheffield of Ennis passed away on April 3, 2014 at the Madison Valley Medical Center.

Kathy was born in Carrington, N. D. to Lloyd and Elaine Kriewald. The family, moved to the Madison Valley in 1961. Kathy graduated from Ennis High School in 1964. She found work at the Fish Bowl Lanes where she met Gordon Sheffield and they married on Jan. 22, 1966. After her marriage, Kathy worked at a variety of jobs and began working as a sorter at the Sierra Talc Mine now Imerys Talc Mine. After retiring at the mine, she worked at KD's Market, now the Madison Foods.

Volker Gene Saier passed away on April 8, 2014 at the Madison Valley Manor. Volker was born in White Sulfur Springs, Mt on June 16, 1929 to Eugene Karl Saier and Pauline Luise Pfund Saier.

Volker's father, Eugene, was born in Konstanz on Bodensee in Germany. In 1923, after reading all the Buffalo Bill books he could find and he decided to see what everyone in Europe called the "Wild West." He found employment with his uncle who was a miner and trapper near Martinsdale, Mt and eventually went to work for the Holiday Ranch. Volker's mother Pauline Ffund, came to Martinsdale from Germany with her sister, met Eugene and married one year later. Volker, only 10 months old, moved to Ennis with his parents. Volker attended elementary and high school in Ennis. He was a downhill ski racer for the Ennis Ski Club during and after his high school days. He joined the Marines and served in the Korean War. Volker met Lois Sannes on a ski hill and they were married May 29 1956. Volker ranched with his parents and continued ranching on the family ranch for most of his life. 3

Elizabeth(Betty) Hudson, long time MVHA member passed away April 8, 2014 at her residence in Dallas, Tx She was born on Jan. 17, 1931 in Tulsa, Okla. She graduated from John Carroll High School and attended the Univ. of Oklahoma. Betty first came to the Madison Valley in January 1968 to look at an unfinished cabin as a possible family vacation home. It was on the land that Denny Wonder had homesteaded in 1930. The Wonders had three girls there and then moved to Ennis in 1937. Denny sold the homestead in 1960, at which time his cabin was torn down and the cabin that the Hudson's eventually purchased had been started.

What is known in the valley and on the maps as the Wonder Ranch has been Betty's summer and fall slice of heaven for 46 years. Betty's children and now grand children will continue to enjoy the Wonder Ranch.

Ruth Haak, long time MVHA member and faithful volunteer passed away April 12, 2014 at the home of her daughter in Sholhola, Penn. Ruth was born on May 1, 1937 in Bethlehem, PA. Ruth acquired property in the Raynolds Pass area and came north from Florida every year to spend June through October at her Mont-ana home. Ruth, Deb Townshend, fellow MVHA member, and Jan Harris started the famous walking group, Women of the Wild (WOW) back in 1985. For nearly three decades Ruth led thousands of visitors and residents alike on hikes throughout the Madison Valley and Yellowstone areas of Montana and Idaho. She is best known for her whistle to get everyone's attention and it is known that you try not to stand near her when the whistle blasts. She was short in stature but huge in leadership of her walking group.

Dan Segota, long time MVHA member, passed away at his home on May 16, 2014. He was born on Dec. 10, 1929 to Mike and Francis Pavic Segota in Red Lodge, Mt. During his childhood years, his young life was spent living with family and friends all over the state of Montana. His family finally settled in Ennis in 1946 and Dan graduated from Ennis High School in 1948. He joined the Navy and after he completed his time, he returned to Ennis to marry Virginia Schabarker on July 1, 1950. Dan spent a lot of time rodeoing and he won the Montana State Rodeo Association Steer Wrestling Championship in 1958. He was instrumental in forming the Ennis Racing and Rodeo Association. He also worked many hours in making the Ennis golf course a reality. He worked for the Montana Highway Department and then started his own contracting business.

Carole Rae Krauss Love, long time MVHA member, passed away on May 19, 2014 in Dillon, Mt. She was born on March 14, 1932 in Ennis to John E. and Florence (Daems) Krauss.

John Krauss was born in Colorado and came to Montana with his family and arrived in Norris in 1908, settling on the Elling ranch at Varney. In 1909 John's family bought a ranch south of Alder, staying there until 1913. John also worked at various ranches and in the woods in the Bitter Root Valley.

Florence Daems was born in Virginia City, Mt., went to 1st grade there before moving (cont. pg 4)

Memories continued from page 3

with her family to Varney and finished grade school at the Varney school. She went to high school in Virginia City and graduated from Sheridan High School. She attended the State Normal College in Dillon and taught at the Eight Mile School between Ennis and Virginia City. She met John Krauss and in 1925 they were married in Sheridan. John went into the trucking business with his brothers and A.M. Welles. Carole was born and spent her early years in Norris. After a few years, her father bought his brothers out and he and Mr. Welles operated the business until 1935, when he sold his interest to Harold Helt. When Carole was three years old, John and Florence took their family to Oregon where they purchased a dairy farm, but after a few months, they decided they were not dairy people. They sold out and moved back to Norris where John bought the Texaco Service and Repair Shop. They lived one year in Bozeman when Carole was in 6th grade and she often spoke of how she loved it there before moving back to Norris. Carole graduated from Harrison High School. She met Earl Love at a track meet when she was in 8th grade and he was a senior. After Earl returned from the service in Korea, they married on June 17, 1950 and moved into a rustic one-room cabin on Steffens Street in Ennis. In 1952 they built their first home north of Ennis on the family ranch on land that is now the new Madison River Propane. They moved to Dillon in 1960 when Earl was named district conservationist for the Soil Conservation District. Earl and Carole had been married for 52 years when Earl passed away and Carole lived the rest of her life at her home N of Dillon.

Carolyn Jean 'Punky' Tichenor passed away on May 25, 2014 at the Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis. Punky was born in Havre, Mt on July 13, 1940 and was raised in Big Sandy, Mt where she graduated from high school in 1957. She married her high school sweetheart, Daryl Tichenor, in 1958 and they had been married 55 years before her passing. They moved a lot during their early years before setting up shop at the Madisonian in Virginia City, Mt and continued to live in Virginia City. Punky's early career was very varied and she became co-owner and publisher of *The Madisonian* which she and Daryl leased in 1970 and purchased in 1971. Punky was very skilled in all the talents needed in the newspaper business and continued learning over the years. After selling the paper in 2002, she continued working there setting type for the new owners. After that job ended, she volunteered helping Daryl at the Spencer Watkins History Museum in Virginia City.

Eugene Richard Gillan passed away June 8, 2014 in Ennis. Gene was born in Eureka, Ill on Feb. 13, 1929 to Elbert and Laura Bryant. Due to diseases at that time, both his parents perished and he and his brothers and sisters were adopted. Gene was adopted by Faye and Goldia Viola Gillan. During the depression the Gillan family moved a lot to secure employment. Gene graduated from Shepherd High School in Shepherd, Mich. where he met Mary Lou Zook and they married on Dec. 1, 1950. After military commitment and

career at Dow Corning Corp, he retired and eventually traveled the United States and moved to Belt, Mt. Four years later they moved to Ennis. He and Mary Lou were members of the Ennis Lions Club and the Presbyterian Church.

Barbara 'Bobbe' Pope passed away June 21, 2014 at Generations Assisted Living. Bobbe was born on Nov. 19, 1920 in Irvington, Calif. to William Z, and Lucille (Berrtram) Foster. Bobbe moved to Bozeman and then to Ennis to be near her daughter and son in law, Wendy and Jim Finley. Wendy and Jim are from Goleta, Ca but retired in Ennis because Jim was friend of George and Mary Ann Alger, long time MVHA members.

Annual meeting The annual meeting of the MVHA was held on May 16, 2014. The program was members sharing tidbits of their and their family's history. The program was great and a lot of history was shared. Our member, Roger White, who lives the furthest away in Aberdeen, Scotland strives to be an active member despite the mileage and sent the following family history to share with the members:

My interest in MVHA came about because of my ancestor, William John Foreman (grandfather of your member Bobby Foreman), who emigrated from England to Montana in about 1869. It took me a long time to find out anything about him but in the last year or so I have discovered he was probably not the only relative to travel to Madison County.

I discovered for example that W J Foreman had an uncle in England, his mother's brother, called John Goldfinch. I had no reason to research him but when I found W J's Ruby Valley homestead record on the Bureau of Land Management's web site, lo and behold, the 160 acres next to his was farmed by a ... John Goldfinch. His uncle? I haven't been able to prove it but he came from England and he's the right age. By 1900 he'd moved on to Oakland, California, where he died, unmarried, so no descendants to look for.

W J Foreman also had a younger brother, Richard who disappears from the English records after 1881. Roll forward to 1900 and a Richard Foreman, right age and born in England, is a bar tender enumerated in the census at Brandon Township. Ten years later a Richard 'Forman', same age, is in the household of Thomas Thexton, whose wife is Margaret Ann Foreman, daughter of W J. He's also described as an 'Uncal' which of course 'my Richard Foreman would have been, of Margaret Ann. He disappears to me after 1910.

If that wasn't enough, W J had a sister, also Margaret Ann, who married a man called Frederick Latus in England and they pitch up in Montana sometime before 1897. They had at least five children. Kate married a Charles Savage in Bozeman, Bessie married John Stewart in Billings, Ralph married a woman named Susan, family name unknown to me, Vincent I can find no spouse for and Frances died young. Various of them seemed to have moved to not only Montana but then on to California, British Columbia and Alberta. (cont.pg. 5)

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 12 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2014

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

Our mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

From the Wagon Seat: Another fall season has arrived. The weather has been great with even some moisture too. We closed our museum after another successful season.

The August field trip to the Woodworth house (Gayle and Dannette Clark) and to the Madison River Power Plant was rained out. It poured rain until about 2:00pm. There was lots of interest for this tour and we will schedule it again in 2015. In September, we had a tour of the Nearly New Shoppe which is the former Angle Hardware Store. Yours truly gave a brief history of the Angle family and the store. It again rained on us but never stopped the program. Some folks went inside, stayed dry and were treated to tours of the Nearly New Store and the Vintage Attic. Comments of those touring was very favorable and if you have not visited the Vintage Attic recently, please stop by the Nearly New and ask for a tour. There is a good piece of history of in that Attic. We just moved the event down to the Pavilion at the Lion's Club Park and continued with the program. We finished the evening with a Potluck and BBQed hamburgers and hot dogs. Thanks to everyone who brought food and made the rainy day a success.,In October we will be back at the bank at 4:00pm with a family history by Barbara Hubner Smith.

The MVHA has a new board member. Liz Applegate has resigned her position on the board to devote more time to her new online employment. Liz will continue to help us on making posters and the Facebook. A big thank you to Liz for all her work. To take her place will be Lee Robison, Ennis native who has returned to the Madison Valley to retire. Thanks to Lee for filling out the term and MVHA is looking forward to working with him. Devonna Owens has taken over the position of secretary.

A great big thank you to Willie's Distillery for buying many sets of historical playing cards and selling them at their store. They are a MVHA Business member and are helping the organization by becoming the in town distributor of the historical playing cards.

The MVHA Board has decided to build a pole type building south of the Forge building. This will be used for items like wagons and other bulky items that need to be stored inside out of the weather. Otis Thompson will be the head foreman and will need help from the rest of the board and anyone else who would like to help out. If you would like to contribute to the building with a monetary donation and tax deduction, it will be greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to all our volunteers at the museum this summer and to members who did programs or helped out with programs. We need more of our members to help out. Please think about volunteering next year. We still need to tell people about the museum. We would like to put up some signs about the museum on the North and South roads coming into Ennis. If you have some good ideas let the board know. We also need your ideas for speakers for programs at the monthly meetings.

MVHA will have a booth at the Woman's Club Holiday Bazaar in November. Start by volunteering to work a short shift manning the booth during the day and stop by to buy a deck of Madison Valley Historic Playing Cards, books about the Madison Valley or the historic cookbook to give as Christmas gifts.

Come to meetings, get involved so the MVHA can keep the wagons rolling. Larry Love, President

Town of Ruby July was the MVHA field trip to Ruby lead by Charles Gilman. Ruby was a thriving community in the early 1900's. It was headquarters for the Conrey Placer Mining Company and remained so until until the end of the dredging days, about 1923. The largest dredge boat in the world at the time, Conrey's #4, worked the area in 1911-'22. Ruby was in the mouth of the canyon and the company dredged Alder Gulch as far as Adobetown, and it is said they took out twenty-two tons of gold. The old mining camp grew from a cluster of cabins to a prosperous town when the dredges came in and declined just as fast when they went out. The post office opened in 1901 with Lawrence Booker as postmaster. It closed in 1924. The name comes from the Ruby Mountains, so called because the garnets found there were first thought to be rubies. The valley and river also took the same name. Names on the Face of Montana by Roberta Carkeek Cheney pg. 224

History Tidbit: Bowling is 5200 years old. Rudimentary bowling balls and pins were found in a tomb in Egypt.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Fry, Martin W. (I) (805)746-6623

2321 Brogan Rd
Emmett, ID 83617

Hoff, Paul & Joann (F) 682-7599

P.O. Box 908
Ennis, MT 59729 MT 59740 (Summer)
2543 Bluff Rd
Seward, NE 68434 (winter)

Membership Update 2014 memberships are now due. Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Some of you have taken care of business and your 2014 membership has been received. Thank you! Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2014 membership is due during October, November, or December or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal slip included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor.

If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley.

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting, please call 682-5780 and we will arrange a ride for you.

Member News

MVHA member, **Ann Storey** celebrated her 100th birthday on July 27, 2014 at River Rock Community Center in Belgrade, MT. A large group was in attendance and Ann remembered everyone, even those who she had not seen for 55 years or more. Congratulations to Ann for reaching the century milestone and becoming an honorary member of MVHA!

Long time MVHA member and founder of the MVHA, **Jane Rybus**, celebrated her 90th birthday in late September even though the official day is not until late October. She was also honored at the University of Montana Homecoming on September 27th. as being the very first woman student body president. She is a descendant of Myron D. Jeffers, founder of Jeffers and William Ennis, founder of Ennis. The very first MVHA

meeting was held at her house and she is still actively involved in the MVHA. See the Lifestyle page in the Thurs. Sept. 11, 2014 *Madisonian* for photos and story about Jane.

Memories

Mary Ann McDonnell, long time MVHA member, passed away at her home near St. George, Utah on Nov. 16, 2013. She was born on August 29, 1946 in Whitehall to George Arthur McDonnell and Eva Henrietta Pearson McDonnell. Her early years were spent in Cameron, Mt. and she graduated from Ennis High School in 1964. She graduated from Montana State University and then from Utah School of Medicine in 1972.

Internal medicine and cardiovascular disease were her specialties until her retirement in 2013. She was a dedicated physician and developed many close relationships with her patients and their families. David Grauman wrote that he had seen her as a patient and that Chester and Joan Lloyd Jones wintered in St. George and were close to her for several years before their passing.

Edward LeRoy Stupca passed away on June 12, 2014 at Copper Ridge Nursing Home in Butte. He was born in Anaconda, MT on June 30, 1935 to Edward and Helen (Walsh) Stupca. He studied at Carroll College in Helena and the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. In 1991, he was assigned to the Madison County Catholic Community with parishes in Sheridan, Laurin and Ennis where he served as pastor until accepting senior status in 2006.

Jim Deeney passed away on June 19, 2014. He was born Oct. 1, 1936 in Red Lodge. After retirement from his education career in Walla Walla, Washington, he and his wife Dorothy retired in Ennis in 1998. His daughter is Cindy (Bud) Pederson, Ennis Public Schools librarian.

Beverly May Martin, former MVHA member, passed away July 25, 2014 at the Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis. She was born Jan. 6, 1932 at the Martin ranch near Harrison. She grew up on the Spanish Creek Ranch and attended high school in Bozeman. She was a leather seamstress and an artist. She gave a program for the MVHA demonstrating and showing her painted gourds. Some of her work is on display in the Montana Room at the Madison Valley Public Library. Beverly lived the last 5 years of her life at the Madison Valley Manor.

Roy Alvin Love of Syracuse, Utah passed away July 31, 2014. Roy was born on the family ranch in Ennis on August, 1934 to Earl Noble Love and Pearl Cassidy Love. Roy's family history started with his grandfather, James M. Love and grand mother Margaret E. (Hinton) Love who were both born near Stella, Missouri. His father, Earl, was also born there.

cont. pg. 3

Memories continued from page 2.

With seven children in tow, the Love family moved to Berthoud, Colorado and then to Belfry, MT. The family then came to Norris, MT by train on Jan. 4, 1916. They then spent part of that spring with an uncle, Art Kelly, at Spring Creek above Ennis where the U.S. Fish Hatchery is currently located. Later that spring grandfather, James, leased the L. L. Gordon ranch in the Madison Valley. This ranch was North of the current Valley Garden Ranch. Roy's father, Earl, was the first of the family to be married. He and Pearl Cassidy were married in Bozeman on May 8, 1918. Pearl was born at Burwell, Nebraska where she grew up and received her education. She taught school for four years before coming to Ennis in 1916 and was teaching there when she met Earl. She continued to teach school after her marriage at McAllister and North Meadow Creek schools.

In 1920, grandfather, James Love, bought the Shewmaker place 1 mile north of Ennis. Shewmakers had purchased this ranch from Grandma Ennis in 1912. Roy's father, Earl, took over this ranch from his father and Roy grew up on this ranch learning to be a cowboy and hunting and fishing there. This ranch is now known as the Goggins Hereford Ranch.

Roy married his high school sweetheart, Sharlene Wooten on May 24, 1954 in Bozeman. Roy and Sharlene moved to Bountiful, Utah in 1959, later settling in Farmington, Utah where they raised two children and ran a successful home building business. (Trails and Trials p 115-116, James. M. Love by Paul Love and Progressive Years page 751 by Roberta Love.)

Cousin, Margie Brendel Bengtson, daughter of Earl's sister, Helen, sent this memory of Roy. My memories of cousin Roy go way back to my earliest recollections at the farm when Uncle Earl and Aunt Pearl lived. Roy taught me how to feed the bummer lambs and he let me sit in his seat as he drove the horses when they were haying. I remember Daddy once put part of a dead skunk under the seat as a joke when Roy was haying. Dad thought a lot of Roy and I remember Daddy working and re-tooling a saddle in our basement for him. Most of all I remember Roy letting me tag along with him even though I was just a little kid. and I see him working with his little black mare (named Susie) at the ranch and in the rodeo ring. Roy was a real cowboy. I never put on my red cowboy boots that I don't think of him. He was a real cowboy all of his life. When I watched the National Rodeo Final on TV I bet Roy and Sharlene were in the stands. I cherish my early childhood memories in Ennis and Roy is a vital chapter. I was with Uncle Earl in the rodeo stands when Roy bulldogged or rode broncs. He was just suppose to rope and Uncle Earl about jumped out of his seat when they

announced Roy would be bulldogging.

One summer when we were in Ennis, I got to looking at Roy's and Larry's cowboy boots and I wanted some for when I rode Joker around Grandma Love's house. Daddy had told me I couldn't have the red ones I wanted at Belle's Trading Post because we were on a budget, so I would have to wait 'til I was bigger and they would fit longer...but I really wanted those little red boots! A few days later Uncle Earl took me to Belle's and asked me if I wanted anything... and like a diva, I said, " Sure the red and white cowboy boots". Daddy was really mad at me! I still have the red and white boots and now I have a great pair of red cowboy books that I wear a lot. I never put them on with out thinking of Daddy, Roy, Uncle Earl and my Montana tap root. Thank you, Margie, for sharing a memory of Roy and sharing a little bit of Madison Valley history

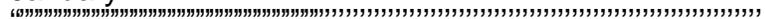
Henry Madison Gates passed away at the Madison Valley Manor on August 7, 2014. He was born in Columbus, MT on Aug. 25, 1920 to William and Ruth (Fleming) Gates. He spent the early years of his life working on his family's ranch. He married Anita Gustafson and continued ranching until moving his family to Cameron in 1961 where he worked on the Carkeek Ranch.

He is father to Mary Oliver and Marie Reinoehl and stepchildren are Rhonda Schabarker, Tina Watson and Gayle Schabarker.

Vernon Forsberg of Huntsville, Ala. passed away August 8, 2014. He is father to Jim Forsberg, Connie Ellerman, Peggy Giblyn and Sue Swanson.

Deonn (DeDe) (Sheffield) Albert passed away on August 10, 2014 in the Dalles, Oregon. She was born May 13, 1939 in Moran, Wyo. to Benjamin and Pamela Scheffield. She graduated from Ennis High School in 1958 and is a sister to Gordon Scheffield. Her parents ran the Windy Water Ranch. Deonn married Jack Albert and they ran the Texaco Station located where Deemo's Meat Market is now located.

MVHA just learned last week of the passing of long time MVHA member, **Audrey Jennings**. She is the daughter of Nova Love Birdsill Bower. When obituary is received and memories are written, a memory to Audrey will appear in the January W.T.



Museum update The Museum closed for the season shortly after Labor Day and when our supply of volunteers ran out. The museum is open by appointment for anyone who wants to visit in the off-season. Just call Larry Love at 682-5780 or Otis Thompson at 682-7415 and they will meet you there for a grand tour.

The beast was the main attraction with many folks coming specifically to see it. Many thanks to Kevin Brenneke who was the volunteer scheduler and to Bonnie Matsick who did a great job filling in when Kevin was on vacation.

Museum Update *cont. from pag. 3*

This is a big job and these two ladies did a great job filling most of the hours at the museum. And a great big thank you to all the volunteers who signed up on the sign-up pages and who said yes when called or some who even called and volunteered. You will never know how much this "stepping up to help out" helps the MVHA with its mission to develop a museum and to interpret through display and education. um and to interpret through display and education.

Fewer guests visited the museum in 2014 and all the members of the MVHA have to brain storm and come up with new and different ways and ideas to let visitors to Montana and the Madison Valley know that a great museum can be part of their visit. Word of mouth and TV programs on the beast have helped but more needs to be done and you members can think of some new and different ideas. Bring your ideas to meetings, e mail a board member, talk it up...."get those ideas rolling."#####

History of the Jumping Horse Ranch by Robert Beck and Nancy Lein Griffin with research by Helene Beck. In the July issue, we left off with the Hodge's sale of Birdseye Frozen Foods and the parent company General Foods to PostumCo.

The Hodges first purchased the Ernest Vetter ranch and within the year purchased the Maginness ranch, the Bower ranch, Florence Jeffer's section of land, E.A. Maynard's Mountain Ranch, and the J. Spencer Watkins Ranch. Nearly five years later the Hodges purchased the Valley Garden Ranch and leased a portion of the Granger Ranches.

The Hodges began almost immediately on an ambitious building construction program. Mrs. Hodges retained the services of a full time carpenter at the ranch, Jack Hill, a Swedish craftsman from Bozeman. She was responsible for selection of building architecture, siting and landscaping. Mr. Hill's distinctive building style can be observed today in the many natural log buildings he erected on the Jumping Horse Ranch. His furniture, designed from native wood materials, still adorn the main house at the Jumping Horse Ranch, bunk house and guest cabins.

Landscaping of the lawn and garden around the main buildings was no easy feat. Bill Hodges reports that the area across the driveway west of the main house was the site of pig and cattle feeding buildings while the property occupied by the Ernest Vetter family and that before the horse barn and corrals could be built, the years of accumulated manure had to be removed and hauled away and spread over the adjacent fields.

In addition to the present main house, which was built as Dorothy Hodges' private quarters, the Hodges were responsible for the construction of two ranch hand houses, a bunkhouse,

a cook house complete with walk-in refrigerators and freezers, three livestock barns, a slaughter house, poultry barn and miles of wooden board corrals. The ranch boasted fine horse training facilities and a one half mile banked training race track. The Hodges operated the ranch much as if it were a small city. There was even a commissary attached to the cookhouse, where ranch hands could purchase food staples and personal grooming items.

The crowning jewel in the Hodges' construction accomplishments is the show barn- a 60,000 square foot, two-story marvel of engineering. The center of the barn boasts a 60' ceiling, large, divided light windows and two 25' doors, which probably weigh 700 pounds each. There are balconies for viewing of judged livestock events and the Hodges used the barn often for public showing and sales of their livestock. The barn was used by the next owner, Phil Yeckel, as was used by the next owners, Robert and Helene Beck, as a winter calving facility.

The Hodges also built a boat house-cabin on the shore of Ennis Lake. This cabin was located on land which was owned by George Watkins. Although a lease arrangement was made with Watkins before the cabin was constructed, each time the Hodges attempted to buy the property, Watkins would refuse. At one point, rather than turn the cabin over to Watkins, the Hodges apparently had it moved. Locals cannot recall where the cabin may have been moved to. Some say it was intentionally burnt down. The large stone chimney of the cabin still remains on the east shore of the lake.

The Hodges operated the ranch as much more than the ordinary hay and cattle operation, that was typical of other Madison Valley ranches. The Hodges, who probably employed up to 75 people in peak season, raised thoroughbred racers, hunters and jumpers, Percheron work horses, quarter horses for ranch work, mules for sale to the Forest Service and the U.S. Army, and over 1000 head of purebred Herefords. Staff at the ranch was supported with a herd of dairy cattle, chickens, turkeys and pigs. They even employed a full-time "chore boy" to take care of the farm animals.

Although it is doubtful that the ranch ever produced a profit during the 20 years it was owned by the Hodges, Bill Hodges said all efforts were made to utilize the resources at hand. In addition to the variety of commercial livestock produced at the ranch, Wetmore negotiated a contract with the U. S. Cavalry to have a standing stud available for breeding for U.S. Government horses. Bill said he recalls his father joking about the fact that the most money their best horse, a thoroughbred named Orbridge, ever brought him was when he was used as a performer in a Loretta Young movie.

The Hodges apparently realized that they couldn't support the expensive horse stock *cont pg. 5*

Jumpint Horse Ranch *cont. from pg. 4*

operation forever, and after 10 years, scaled back the ranch-ing operation to include only cattle and hay. Ranch hands at the ranch report that in the later half of the Hodges' tenure, the thoroughbreds were gone and the ranch was staffed with only 12 to 15 hired hands.

The Hodges' usually spent only three or four months per year in the Madison Valley, the remainder of their time was spent at their home in Tucson, Arizona or Beverly Farms, Massachusetts. For a period of two years during W.W.II, when ranch help was hard to find, Dorothy and Wetmore spent almost the entire year in the Madison Valley.

The Hodges' children recall their growing years at the ranch with fondness. Although from a more privileged background than that of many of their peers in the community, they felt no social barriers and relished the idea of being cowboys. Bill Hodges even went on to rope professionally after his father sold the ranch. Bill Hodges also played guitar at local dances held every Saturday night at the Odd Fellows Hall (now the vacant Economy Food Market on Main Street), and recalls the times as "wild" especially when the "roughs" from Butte would come down for the dances.

The Hodges boys became quite well connected in the valley and at one time Steve, Bill and Hank dated either Isabelle or Virginia Jeffers, the daughters of Austin Jeffers and the granddaughters of M. D. Jeffers. At one time Hank was engaged to be married to Virginia Jeffers, but his brother recalls that Hank was a "wild, young cowboy", and that Virginia's mother, Belle, was sure he would never amount to anything. Hank spent a great deal of time helping at the Jeffers ranch, because, as his brother Bill tells it, "When you dated one of Belle's daughters, you got put to work."

The Hodges had their share of interesting projects but one which even valley locals talk about was the

"archeology truck". The flat bed truck was rigged with steel compartments equipped for camping and office space. The truck had a unique gear system, which attached a chain between the duals of the rear axle. When the chain was engaged there were four axle drives which propelled the truck. In fact, there were actually 24 gear ratios, as the transmission consisted of a three speed on top of a standard four speed, with a two speed rear axle. The Hodges' used the truck for trips to Tucson and the desert country and Mexico. A local Madison Valley resident recalls that the truck was split "camper" from chassis and sold when Yeckels purchased the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch.

It was Steve Hodges, the oldest son, who became a polo enthusiast and the JHSR also began to raise polo ponies. Some of the polo mallets and balls still grace the shelves of ranch storage buildings. Steve's major obstacle to scheduling polo

matches in the Madison Valley was the lack of other polo players. Local residents recall area cow-boys trying their hand at polo, and some, such as Bob Cunningham, son of Seymour Cunningham, one time owner of the Buffalo Ranch, became regulars at the polo matches. Bob later managed the JHSR for Phil Yeckel.

The Hodges had many well known friends, including two U.S. Presidents. Wetmore served on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Business Advisory Council and was instrumental in setting up the President's trip to Yellowstone Park. Plans were underway for President Roosevelt to visit the ranch during that trip, but the difficult access for the President's wheelchair would not allow it. Ex-president Hoover probably stayed at the ranch to consult with Wetmore on President Roosevelt's national business reconstruction policies. The guest cabin at the ranch is now called the "Hoover Cabin."

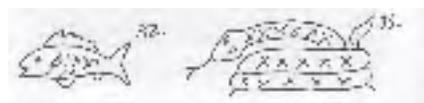
The Hodges were close friends with other prominent families in the area and Bill recalls that each year his father would get together with Charles Ancency, a pioneer ranch in the Gallatin Canyon, to "settle up". Some of Ancency's Flying D Ranch cattle would migrate west over the Spanish Peaks divide and some Jumping Horse cattle would migrate east over the divide. Bill said he remembers the barbed comments the two gentlemen would good naturedly make about whose cattle they were eating when the two families met for dinner.

Ranch hands recall that although Wetmore was friendly he didn't "mix" much with the hands and worked on his own business projects during his stay at the ranch. In fact, he was very friendly, perhaps to a fault in that he was too easy to approach with promotion schemes or the need for gifts. The ranch hands recall Mrs. Hodges as aloof. However, she was the one who brought a prior ranch background with her and played a very large part in building and organizing the ranch. She wasn't a joiner but supported the Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers and tended to other needs in the valley. She was an excellent horsewoman and when she and Wetmore rode over the Jordan Creek Divide and first saw the land that became the JHSR. she was the one who could see the prospect of a whole new ranch setting for the Hodges family.

JHSR history to be continued in January 2015 issue with the rest of the Hodges's ranch history and starting with Phil and Jane Yeckel as next owners of the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch.

Check the MVHA website to find back issues of the Wagon Tongue and read the past parts of the JHSR history. Website listed on first page.

Montana Trivia Last two. Need something new!!



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 13

Madison Valley History Association, Inc

January 2015

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

Our mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

From the Wagon Seat: Happy, Healthy New Year! 2015 is going to be another great year for the MVHA. 2014 has really gone fast and it has been kind to the MVHA.

During 2014 MVHA had programs and field trips that were enjoyed by all. We ended the year in November and December with a program by Dan and Martha Northway about the talc mine and the Christmas Potluck, gift exchange and sing-a-long of Christmas carols. Thank you to Jo and Otis Thompson, Kevin and Marty Brenneke and Devonna and Lynn Owens who prepared and served the ham and turkey for the pot luck. And thank you also to all the members who helped set up, clean up and get all the dishes washed and put away. And thank you to Madison Valley Baptist Church for generously allowing us to hold our dinner in their social hall.

The board would like to thank all the members who purchase memberships each year and who step forward to help out in various capacities.

For 2015, the board is going to build a building to be located South of the Forge Building. The new building will be used to display large artifacts that need to be under a roof. It will also house some display cases to feature additional artifacts that are now in storage. Your help will be needed starting in April and May to get this project off the ground.

The January program will be based on the 1964 Centennial Train with a video. Carol Hacker and Karen Shores are co-chairs of that program. We do not have a program for February yet and March 17, St. Patrick's Day, will be the annual fundraising dinner to honor the founder of Ennis, William Ennis, who was born in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. It will be held at the Ennis Elementary School Cafeteria and we will need your help in setting up, serving, cleaning up and baking soda bread and blarney stones. And we need someone to step up and chair the committee for the I Like William Ennis essay contest that MVHA does with the junior high school.

Looking forward, we need your ideas for programs and field trips for Feb., May and into the summer. We also will open the Museum over Memorial Day and for the season in mid June and MVHA will be needing your help hosting at the museum. Please plan to pick a day each month or each week and volunteer to keep the museum open for the tourists and visitors. We also need a member to volunteer to be the scheduler for June, July, August and September. This person passes a sign up calendar around at meetings and field trips and calls members to make sure there is someone at the museum each day it is open,

Did anyone get to see the special on our beast on Jan. 2 on the Destination America channel? The MVHA is suppose to get a DVD of this program for helping them film it. It will be shown sometime in the future as a program for anyone who did not get to see it.

The May meeting will be the annual meeting when the budget is approved and new board members are elected. As a friendly reminder, keep the non profit 501c3 MVHA on your list for donations and for memorials for folks who have passed on.

With your continued help, the MVHA will continue to move forward. Become an active member, invite a younger person to join and in this way, we will keep the Wagons Rolling. Larry Love, Wagon Master

History of the State of Montana The admission of Montana into the Union started with the forming of the Montana Territory on May 26, 1864. The Centennial Train which was the subject of our January program was the celebration of the Montana Territory. After party politics in Washington, D.C. blocked statehood for years, Montana became the 41st. state with a population of 143,000 on November 8, 1889 and this fall on Nov. 8, 2014, the 125th birthday of the state of Montana was celebrated. To commemorate the 125th year, some Montana Trivia and facts will be shared. From the Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014 Great Falls Tribune..1841..oldest church congregation is St. Mary's Catholic Mission in Stevensville, 1849..oldest building is Old Fort in Fort Benton, 1863...Oldest bar is the Bale of Hay Saloon in Virginia City, 1882..Oldest hotel is Grand Union Hotel in Fort Benton, 1891...Oldest continually operating theater is Opera House Theatre in Phillipsburg, 1902...Oldest continually operating hotel is Kempton Hotel in Terry, and 1904...Oldest steakhouse is Mint Cafe in Belgrade. More Montana Trivia and facts in the next issue.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the October issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Goodwin, Bill & Connie F

132 Diamond Trail Rd.

Placitas, N M

Membership update Any outstanding 2014 memberships are now over due. Almost all of you have taken care of business and the MVHA has received your membership. Just check you address label on the envelop and you can easily tell if your membership is paid or which month you are due. Your membership is good for a full year from the month you purchase it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2015 membership is due during Jan, Feb, or Mar. or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for Families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The MVHA Board of Directors appreciates all memberships that are purchased and your support as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley.

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting and program, please call 682-5780 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Member News

Hal Pasley celebrated his 104th birthday on Nov. 12, 2014. Congratulations, Hal, on reaching another milestone. Hal has been a member of the MVHA for 11 years.

Chuck Bennetts celebrated his 101st birthday on Dec. 15, 2015. Chuck has been a MVHA member for 15 years. Congratulations go out to Chuck.

Pearl (Neville) and Les Kilman celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 29. They were married at Trinity Episcopal Church in 1954. Congratulations to Pearl and Les. If you would like to send a card to them, the address is: 5372 N. 20th St., Phoenix, Ariz, 85016.

Check out the new Ennis City Map displayed at the Grandma Ennis Park in the gazebo. **Zoe Todd** spearheaded the project to revise maps made in 2002 and 2007 by the late Joe Lopez. **Liz Applegate** designed the new map. This new map

outlines a lot of information for residents and tourists to Ennis and the Madison Valley. Thank you, Liz and Zoe.

Vicky Gordon and **Larry Love** participated in the Ennis Community concerts -Dec. 4 in Virginia City and Dec. 7 in Ennis. Vicky was accompanist for the choir and also accompanied Larry for his solo *Do You Hear What I Hear*.

Jan Smith had open heart surgery right before Christmas. She is home, recovery is going well and she welcomes phone calls. Just before she left to Billings for her surgery, she joined the Ennis Community Choir for the *Hallelujah* from "*Messiah*"

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Memories

Dick Baur, MVHA member from Broomfield, Colorado passed away in 2014. MVHA thanks Dick for his support of the mission of the history of the Madison valley.

Betty J. Hill Kelly passed away Sept. 27, 2014 in Billings. Betty was born on March 27, 1934, in Sheridan to Virginia Morris Hill and Eugie "Bott" Hill. The MVHA museum has a picture of her father "Botts" displayed at the museum.

Florence Bell Ore passed away on Oct. 17, 2014 in Bozeman, MT. She was born on May 26, 1927 in a logging camp near Mission City, British Columbia to English immigrants, John and Mildred House Bell. Florence was an author and wrote her memoir The Road Between which was published in 2011. Florence was a speaker at an annual meeting for the MVHA sharing her knowledge of writing a family history for members and guests.

Susan Ransburg McCaw, former MVHA member, passed away Oct. 21, 2014 in Bozeman, Mt. She was born in Indianapolis, Ind. to Gregg and Marjorie Ransburg on Oct. 29, 1940. After traveling around the world several times and living in many places, Susan fell in love with Southwest Montana and the people and community of Ennis where she enjoyed an amazing group of friends before moving to Bozeman. Susan left her mark in the Madison Valley as she contributed to the library and the history association.

Byram Delloyd "Dee" Owens passed away in October, 2014. He was born to James Lloyd and Katherine Byram Owens in July of 1928 in Ucon, Idaho. In June of 1957, he married Donna Lynn Barter and they lived in Missoula. In 1959, Dee moved his family to Donna's family ranch in Norris, Mt where Dee ranched until his passing. Dee is the brother to Lynn Owens, MVHA member.

Roy Leonard Reed passed away in October, 2014. He was born Oct. 26, 1923 to Edith and Henry Reed in Minam, Ore. (continued on page 3)

Memories (continued from page 2)

Roy married Beverly Smith in October 1944 in Lewiston, Idaho. In 1963, Roy bought a ranch near Ennis and ran an outfitting business for over 20 years. In 1972 he went into the real estate business and opened Reed Real Estate in 1974.

Glen Louis Gallentine passed away in Ennis on Nov. 9, 2014. He was born June 13, 1941 in Cody Wyo. to Norris and Hulda Gallentine. The family moved to Montana and purchased the McLeod Resort south of Big Timber. In 1964 he married Jeanne Arlee. His love of the outdoors drew him to Ennis where he worked as a ranch real estate agent and partnered with Roy Reed in an outfitting business, Later he purchased the outfitting business and partnered with his son, Rob. He also owned and managed the Camper Corner R.V. Park.

Murray "Mick" A. Welton passed away Nov. 12, 2014 in Billings. He was born in Lovell, Wyo. on Dec. 31, 1936 to Murray Wright and Delma Mae (LaFollette) Welton. He married Jayne L. Peterson on June 20, 1959 in Billings. After his career and living in many places, he retired in 1993 and they moved to Virginia City, Mt to be near children. Mick was an Elder at the Shepherd of the Hills Church, active in snowmobiling and did a lot of volunteering including preparing taxes at the Madison Valley Public Library.

Bradley Rex Bradshaw passed away Dec. 7, 2014. He was born Aug. 16, 1956 in Ely, Nv. to Karl and Mae Bradshaw where he grew up on a ranch. He married Barbara Maupin on April 11, 1981. In 1994 the family moved to Cameron, Mt. where Brad worked on the Bar K Ranch and became manager. A family tragedy took its toll and in 2004 he left the ranch and purchased a small engine repair business in Ennis. From there he moved to Lindsay, Mt. to work for a ranch there,

Dale Francis Sisel passed away Dec. 21, 2014. He was born on June 26, 1937 in Kewaunee, Wis. to Gordon Patrick and Laura Rubens Sisel. He married Karen Wehr on Oct. 28, 1960. Though he spent many years in the corporate world, his love of the outdoors never left him and in 1993 he bought the Sphinx Mountain Ranch in Cameron, Mt.

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History of Jumping Horse Ranch(continued) by Robert Beck and Nancy Lein Griffin with research by Helene Beck. In the October issue, we left off with Phil and Jane Yeckel becoming the new owners of the Jumping Horse Ranch.

Wetmore and Dorothy Hodges were both very conservation conscious, and managed the ranch accordingly. His sons remember that Wetmore imported from Yellowstone National Park

the first herds of antelope to the ranch. Bill recalls that their father had built an earth filled dam near the family's cabin by Ulrey's Lake to protect trout spawning habitat but a vandal or a person opposed to the dam closed the gates and filled the dam. The dam burst in 1983 and caused a tremendous flood down Jack Creek doing extensive damage. Bill said the breaking of that dam "broke his father's heart" because of the erosion and other damage. Wetmore never hunted the game on his ranch, although occasionally would allow others to do so.

The Hodges employed a variety of different ranch managers, horse trainers and jockeys. Some locals recall a Russian race horse trainer who held the position for a number of years. Wilson Clark, a former ranch hand, remembers that the Hodges shipped a black thoroughbred stallion from England, who at one time almost killed his trainer. The Hodges didn't skimp on the purchase of horse flesh and are reputed to have spent as much as \$30,000 on two mares, a very high price in 1935.

The Hodges' chauffeur, Ralph James, became well known in the community and married the daughter of a local Madison Valley family. In addition to vehicle maintenance, James' job was to care for the lawns and property. For many years James lived all year at the ranch, and some local residents blame him for the elimination of the native population of Hungarian Partridges, because he had "nothing to do but shoot birds". Fortunately, the population of partridges on the ranch is now recovering.

Wetmore apparently felt a great moral inclination to support the workers of the Madison Valley. His sons recall his regret at "not being able to do more" to rebuild the economy during the Great Depression which followed the fateful stock market crash of 1929. Locals recall that he occasionally talked about doing all he could do to provide work in the Madison Valley. His sons believe it was this desire to rebuild the economy that motivated him to return to the business world full time after World War II. His friend, President Roosevelt, had started a massive building reconstruction program. The face of industrial America was changing from war production to the development of peacetime markets and Hodges was determined to do his part.

It was 1954 when the Hodges sold their Madison Valley property to pursue a new family business. The grown sons seemed anxious to pursue careers far removed from ranch management. In addition to capitalizing the son's business ventures, Wetmore began a research and development business based in Redwood City, Calif. The new business was responsible for taking the development of other companies and making them continued on page 4

Jumping Horse cont from page 3

commercial. He developed ideas which made the transportation and preservation of food more convenient for the consumer. In addition to refrigerated truck containers, Wetmore's company developed the first piggyback air, land and sea containers and a meat aging rack. Wetmore, used to being major player in the national economy, was always remorseful that he had not been active in war production. His sons say that, contrary to local rumors that he "went broke", after twenty years of isolation on the ranch, their father probably just missed the fast track of the business world.

Phil and Jane Yeckel

Phil and Jane Yeckel and their young family came to the Madison Valley from Texas, where Phil had acquired capital from successful ventures in the oil business. The Yekels purchased all of Hodges' property, with exception of the Valley Garden ranch. Phil was an active manager during the 13 years they owned the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch. Except for a period of six years when his children, Tody and Carl attended school in the valley, the Yeckels lived the ranch only during the summer months. The remainder of the time, the Yeckels spent at their Arizona winter home.

The Yeckels are credited by the Madison Valley residents with being good stewards during their tenure at the the JHSR., and some say that the ranch "has always had good care." Phil is responsible for modernization of ranch work through the purchase of mechanized haying equipment. It was during post war America that the methods of agriculture, was well as all national industries, was under going rapid transformation, it was a new era of industrialization, and Phil participated in that trend by planting hardy hay and grass species and using newly developed fertilizers. The ranch staff was pared to an efficient crew of five to eight workers and the ranch was converted down to a basic hay and cattle operation with hardy ranch livestock.

Changes in ranching in the Madison Valley were never as evident as in this period of the valley's history. Carl Yeckel, Phil's son, wrote a thesis to fulfill a thesis requirement for a Masters of History at the University of Montana entitled "History of the Cattle Industry in the Madison Valley". Carl claims in his study that ranching in the mountain valleys of western Montana has not always followed the trends in other ranching communities. Yeckel asserts in his thesis that unlike his eastern counterpart, the mountain rancher had, from the very start, claimed or purchased his tracts. As opposed to the open range history of eastern Montana, the mountain ranching has always involved claiming or purchasing land 4

title and fencing the acreage. The 1950's were marked with instability for the cowman, and Phil, like other producers for the time, experimented with grazing ratios and stock accumulation only to find that supply and demand had very little effect on the price of beef. It was a time when the agricultural industry saw abandoning ranching and farming for more lucrative and secure occupations in the city.

The Yeckels were responsible for the sale and removal of three of the houses on the ranch. One of the houses, the Ernest Vetter house, is now the home of Madison Valley attorney Chester Jones in Jeffers. Another home, which was the original home of William Maginness, located almost directly across the county road from the Fay Jeffers home, is now the home of Wade and Susan Miller in Jeffers. The third house was built for ranch foreman, Jess Armitage when he was employed by Wetmore Hodges. It was then located in the apple orchard near the horse barn at ranch headquarters. When the Yeckels purchased the ranch, Armitage, who was no longer a ranch employee, purchased the house for \$1800 and had it moved to it's present site along the Madison River. Phil also dismantled several grain and hay storage facilities to reduce the ranch's property tax burden. Some valley locals claim that Phil considered cutting the show barn in half for demolition, but was talked out of it by his ranch manager, Bob Cunningham. There is agreement that the decision to keep the barn was a wise one, because the next winter brought intense spring storms. The big barn, used as a calving barn, is credited with saving the calf crop.

A kitchen and dining room addition was added to the present main house at the ranch during the period it was occupied by Phil and Jane Yeckel. During its ownership by the Hodges, the house had no kitchen, as it was built solely as a private residence for Mrs. Hodges. The Hodges family ate their meals at the present Cookhouse and Sunday dinners in what was originally the Ernest Vetter house which served as the main house for the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch.

Many local residents recall that the Yeckels made good use of the outdoor swimming pool built by the Hodges. It was located west of the main ranch house. They recall family barbecues, where the children of the community were encouraged to use the pool. The pool was abandoned by Robert Beck, who claimed the pool, filled from an irrigation ditch, was not a "luxury" in the cold mountain climate.

The Yeckels owned a unique pair of mules, which they named Ed and Ollie, an affectionate reference to the Yeckel's friends, Ed and Ollie Beardsley. (Continued on pg. 5)

JHSR continued from pg. 4

Robert Beck owns a favorite picture of the mules. Ed and Ollie were pulling a sled across a bridge when their footing began to slip on the ice covered timbers. The photo depicts the mules leaning against each other, pushing away from the edges of the bridge, in mutual panic.

In 1967 the Yeckels, their children then grown, sold the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch and established another cattle operation in Wyoming. Local residents remembered that Phil Yeckel, presumably disenchanted with the changing cattle industry, was attracted by the price his ranch would bring. He, according to some valley locals, signed sale agreements without telling his family. Some recall Jane Yeckel's horror when she discovered that her beautiful home was to be sold out from under her.

Robert and Helene Beck

The Jumping Horse Stock Ranch, a ranch credited with a history of good management, was fortunate with the acquisition of Robert Beck as an owner. He purchased the property after searching in several western states for ranch property. Upon the sale of his ownership share in a successful and pioneer computer business, Robert Beck, who grew up on a farm near Lincoln, Nebraska, sought to fulfill a long-time dream of returning to agricultural life.

In addition to the Yeckel's property, Beck added the Crandall and Paugh ranches (known as the Judy ranch) to the Jumping Horse Ranch and significantly expanded the hay production capacity of the property. In 1987, to prevent the sale of adjacent property in 100 acre parcels, Beck purchased a portion of the Watkins Ranch from the Ben Johnson Property Development Corporation.

Three years after purchasing the ranch, Robert Beck married Helene, a love match sparked by compatibility and acceptance. The Becks spent the winter months on their fruit farm in Fallbrook, Calif. near San Diego, and during the remainder of the year were active in the management of the Jumping Horse Ranch. A highlight of their ranching experience was called the "Incident at Big Sky" when the mountain men, Nichols and his son, undertook to kidnap a young female athlete in the Jack Creek drainage basin where the Jumping Horse cattle were grazed in the summer. The father hoped that the girl would keep his son content to live off the land year round in the mountains. An attempt to rescue the girl went awry with one rescuer killed and the girl wounded.

Everyone living along Jack Creek moved out for several days in case the mountain men might try to escape along that path. There were radio and TV interviews of the displaced people. Months

later the sheriff captured the outlaws single-handed in a bravura performance followed by his book Incident at Big Sky by Johnny France. The ranch cowboys found that Nichols and his son shot about six ranch cows for sport which took off some of the romance of the mountain men saga.

The Becks have initiated many projects at the ranch aimed at the protection of the land and conservation of it's resources. Although the decision has often meant that cattle grazing may suffer or herds must be cut back, the Becks have offered protected grazing for the elk herds of the Spanish Peaks, which often find their winter range increasingly encroached upon by man. The area has been designated as a wildlife protection zone. Concerned about the potential extinction of the western bluebird, the Becks have placed a trail of bluebird houses on fences throughout the ranch.

Robert Beck began, almost immediately upon purchase of the Jumping Horse Stock Ranch, to install modern irrigation systems, and introduced the first center pivot system to the Cedar Creek Bench. Efficient and modern farming operations allow the Becks to maintain maximum ranch production with a small staff. The modern Jumping Horse cowboy must be as versed in irrigation, nutrition and calf production as he is in riding and roping.

In 1996 the Becks decided to scale back the ranch operation by selling the original Crandall and Paugh lands on the Cedar Creek Bench to Terry Braxton to become part of the Cedar Creek Ranch. The Becks are pledged to the protection of the Jumping Horse Ranch as an operating cattle ranch. Many of the original ranch buildings have been restored with the authenticity of their original builders. Helene Beck, an avid historian and protector of artifacts from past generations, has preserved the original homestead house of the McKee family. The house, a one and half story, balloon frame structure, was moved from the McKee family ranch when that property was sold by Isabelle Jeffers. The technique of balloon frame construction, which is now nearly obsolete, sets a heavy timber frame along the upper perimeter of the structure.

The JHSR history will be continued in April 2015 issue with the rest of the Beck's ranch history continuing with the McKee house.

Check the MVHA website to find back issues of the Wagon Tongue and read the other parts of the Jumping Horse history if you have missed any of the history. The website is listed on the first page.

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Answers to the last two **Montana Trivia**
32 Whitefish #33 Anaconda
This is end of this trivia. Thank you, Kevin Brenneke

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the January issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard.

Bendele, Paul

4120 Westbrooke Dr.
Fort Collins, Co. 80526

Ellingsen, John D. 843-5522

P.O. Box 323
Virginia City, Mt. 59755

King, Eugenia 214-366-1901

4322 Lively Lane
Dallas , TX 75220

Lemaire, Denyse 682-5329

17 Hale Loop Trail
Ennis, MT 59729

Liss, Ted & Dorothy 682-3614

75 Horn Creel Rd.
Cameron, Mt. 59720

Mainwaring, Earl & Billeta 406-632-4266

P.O. Box 635
Harlotown, MT 59036

Ypma, Ginny 685-3494

P.O. Box 161
Harrison, MT 59735

Membership update Any outstanding 2014 memberships are now over due. Almost all of you have taken care of business and the MVHA has received your membership. Just check your address label on the envelop and you can easily tell if your membership is paid or which month you are due. Your membership is good for a full year from the month you purchase it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2015 membership is due during April, May or June, or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for Families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

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If anyone needs a ride to a meeting and program, call 682-5780 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Member News

Jane Rybus has moved to be closer to family and her new address is:

Red Oak Assisted Living
650 East North Bend Way #207

North Bend, WA 98245

Jane will welcome letters so keep in touch. Jane is a founder of the MVHA, early board member and secretary for many years.

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Memories

Ruth Dawn Theriault Davis was born on March 3, 1937 and passed away on Jan 7, 2015 at her home in Ennis. She is mother of long time MVHA member, Monte Davis and Energy Alliance Propane delivery driver for Madison Valley, Colette Davis.

Hal Joseph Dale passed away January 17, 2015. He was born on April 19, 1923 in Abe, MT, a town named by his father to be the first Montana town in the alphabet. It was a town of five ranch families on Ruby Creek of the Madison River. His father became under sheriff in Virginia City and Hal spent his early years roaming the streets of Virginia City.

Elizabeth Margaret Baker McCallum Hokanson passed away January 29, 2015 in Butte. She was born October 14, 1919 in Butte to Adolph Arlio Baker and Hazel Mae Argall Baker. She spent her early years at the family ranch near Elk Park, MT. On August 15, 1937, she married Kenneth Edwin McCallum, lived in Butte for two years and moved to the McAllister area. They moved to Ennis in 1969 and Kenny passed away there. Beth married Fred Wilhelm Hokanson and moved to Norris.

Cathleen Skank Cline passed away in Gilbert, Arizona on Feb. 9, 2015. She was born in Ennis on June 28, 1961 to David and Jynean (Peterson) Skank. Cathy grew up in the McAllister area with a ranch life raising and milking Saanen goats and showing them in 4-H.. She graduated from Ennis High School in 1980. She received an Associate degree from Ricks College and served her mission in San Diego, CA. She married Christopher Cline in the SLC Utah temple. Her mother, Jynean, is a long time MVHA member.

Neal C. LaFever passed away February 22, 2015. He was born on June 16, 1944 to Clarence and Helen (Mehlos) LaFever. He grew up in Wisconsin and ventured West to Montana working in Billings. In 1975 he wound up in Virginia City searching for gold. While he did not strike it rich in Alder Gulch, he bought the Pioneer Bar on May 26, the same day that gold was discovered many years before in 1863. After Virginia City, he moved back to Billings.

John "Jack" Carl Held passed away March 5th, 2015. He was born on Dec. 2nd, 1926 to Frank and Annie Mae (Wing) at their ranch in Waterloo. He married Joyce Atkinson on Sept. 25, 1949. He is father to Linda Schott and grandfather to Dulcie Clark.

Continued from Jumping Horse pg 3

After leaving the valley, my parents purchased a smaller ranch near Big Horn, Wyoming where horses and steers were raised, They did not own any home in Arizona until a number of years after the Becks purchased the Jumping Horse Ranch. Jane and Phil's year round home was in Wyoming for several years until they did purchase a winter house in Arizona. There they would stay for about three months then back to Wyoming before full snow-melt.

My sister's nickname was "Toady" not "Toby" (pg 4, column 1) The two mules mentioned (pg 4 column 2) were indeed named in honor of Ed and Olive, but not "Ollie" Beardsley. "Auntie Olive" would bring her namesake carrots and apples. Not so for "Uncle Ed!"

At no time did Phil Yeckel ever consider cutting the large show barn in half. There were serious discussions about enlarging the center arena area to accommodate the use for cutting horse training and of steer roping practice. All new corrals and cutting pens were constructed. A number of the barn's larger stalls became an OB/GYN and nursery for the mother cows!

The swimming pool had several cracks that would not, nor could not, hold water from the irrigation ditch. The first summer we lived there the young boys in the bunk house made several stabs at repairing with tar in hopes of keeping water in the pool. The most water we could measure in the pool was 3 inches. Sorry, no pool parties. Swimming was done in the lake. Phil did consider taking a jack hammer to the bottom of the pool, filling it with dirt and turning the pool into "Jane's Vegetable Garden!" Never happened while we were there.

Carl is a proud graduate of Ennis High school. He was christened at the Trinity Church in Jeffers with Elsie and Bob Cunningham as Godparents. The years the Yeckel family lived in the Madison Valley were full and happy ones. They are ever grateful to and for the many faithful friends we made there as they are forever in our hearts and memories of Montana.

Editor's note:"And now you have heard the rest of the story." Thank you, Carl, for getting the history of the Madison Valley and the famous Jumping Horse Ranch up to date. Carl and Suzie Yeckel are long time MVHA members and frequently contribute artifacts and interesting stories to the MVHA. They live in Dallas, Texas.

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History of the Jumping Horse Ranch (continued)
by Robert Beck and Nancy Lein Griffin with research
by Helene Beck. In the January issue, 4

we left off with Beck's ranch history up to the preservation of the McKee house.

The McKee house, built in 1880, was saved from destruction by Mrs. Beck and moved to lower Jordan Creek on that portion of the ranch which was originally the Edgar Michener ranch. The house has been restored to the condition of a late 1800's homestead. The contents of the entire house, down to the window sashes and the hardware, were collected to create a house as it was when occupied by the early families of the valley. The McKee family purchased the house and the ranch property from Olive Smith. It was ideally suited for the McKee's eleven children and the upstairs rooms, small by current standards, is divided into two open rooms which probably served as boys' and girls' dormitories. Mrs. Beck has furnished the house with beds, bed coverings, curtains, dishes and kitchen equipment that are typically those used by a pioneer family.

In 1987 the Becks granted the Montana Land Reliance a conservation easement on the Jumping Horse Ranch. This easement, a title attachment which will follow the property into the future, restricts the number of buildings which can be constructed on the ranch property and protects native wildlife and vegetation. The Montana Land Reliance, a private, non-profit organization, has as it's goal the protection of large tracts of Montana land in an agricultural trust. The Becks, among the first in the Madison Valley to grant the Montana Land Reliance a conservation easement, were instrumental in the addition of other Madison Valley ranches to the Montana Land Reliance land trust. The Jumping Horse Ranch, near to the Beaverhead National Forest and the Lee Metcalf Wilderness area, has proved to be valuable property to acquire as a conservation easement. The Beck's worked in conjunction with Montana Land Reliance land planners and government wildlife management officials to further mutual conservation goals. The conservation easement has little effect on the operation of the ranch.

The operations of a cattle ranch are planned around the seasons. In the spring, during May and June, when a young bull's fancy turns to thoughts of love, the cows are bred. The cows are still nursing a three to four month old calf. Each bull works only three years to avoid inbreeding. Replacement bulls are purchased each spring. This purchase is the major source of good new genes for the herd and is crucial to the maintenance of a healthy herd. the ranch retains the services of some Hereford bulls to breed replacement heifers.

Often non Hereford bulls, such as *cont. pg 5*

Jumping Horse Ranch cont from pg 4

Angus or Shorthorn breeds, are used to produce crossbred calves. These crossbreeds can often fetch a higher price on the beef market. Heifers who are bearing their first calves will sometimes be bred to a Black Angus bull to assure that their first deliveries will not be difficult ones. In July the bulls are removed to their special bachelor's pastures and the cows and their calves to their own pastures.

Haying is a time consuming job on a ranch. The dry climate of the Madison Valley makes reliance upon the spring rains a less than sure bet. The hay crop requires irrigation, and the water from Jack and Jordan Creeks to irrigate the hay lands.

Access to water is crucial to the mountain stockman, even in pioneer days great effort was directed towards diverting the mountain streams to the thirsty hay meadows. One of the most impressive early irrigation structures in the valley is the Jack Creek flume built in 1915 by Lawrence Jeffers and W. A. Duffield. Parts of the three quarter mile flume can still be seen on the left side of Jack Creek Road leading up to the Diamond J Ranch.(Editor's note: Since Becks wrote this history more of the flume has been weathered or been taken away so you have to really look hard to see any remains.) One can only wonder how this timber flume, located on incredibly steep slopes through almost impenetrable timber, was even constructed. In the early 1900's the materials, packed by horse and mule, could only have been arranged and secured by simple pulleys and brute force.

The Jumping Horse Ranch uses modern pivot systems as well as the old fashioned flood irrigation methods of the early pioneers. During the summer months of July, August and September, the ranch produces two hay crops. About 2000 tons of hay is harvested and stored in bales for cattle feed during the winter months. After harvest, some of the hay fields are plowed and reseeded for the next year.

Around the middle of October the cows and calves are rounded up and the calves are weaned from their mothers and are sold. The cows are pregnancy tested to determine those carrying next year's calf crop. A portion of the female calves are retained to replace older cows and open cows...those who did not get pregnant—a big mistake for a stock cow! During the winter months the herd is delivered, on a daily basis, a tasty meal of last summer's hay crop. In February, often during nasty mountain weather, the cows begin delivering their calves. The show barn serves as maternity ward with special services provided for troublesome births. The calving season can be especially 5arduous for the cowboy working 24 hour days.

A lost calf can mean a big financial loss. Some cows may just not prove to be the motherly type and the little critter's life may depend on bottle feeding at the hand of a kindly ranch hand or other family member. Some cows, just like humans, are prone to breech births, twisted cords, and can need the occasional cesarean section operation.

Six to eight weeks after calving, the calves are gathered for branding, rugged ritual which involves marking their hide with a hot branding iron to show ranch ownership. The Jumping Horse Ranch brand, the "Seventy Six", is written with the seven and the six sharing the vertical line. Such a single line brand is very desirable because it avoids overheating the calf's hide at an intersection of lines in a brand.

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As in pioneer times, there is never enough time in a day to complete the work on a ranch. Dragging fields, fertilizing, repairing corrals and fences, breaking and training horses and checking on the cow/calf pairs in the summer pasture. The ranchers lament is that there is always more to do.

There is, however more to ranching than livestock production. In these times of rapid transit, electronic communication and high technology lifestyles, the cultural phenomenon of ranching is becoming increasingly unique. Grasslands across America are being sacrificed to man's development. The future of the Jumping Horse Ranch, as in the past, will be dedicated to the preservation of our country's rural traditions.

Credits: Jess Armitage, Donna Bausch, Helene Beck, Robert Beck, Kelly Carkeek, Richard Clark, Wilson Clark, Elsie Cunningham, William Hodges, Ralph Paugh, Tom Williams.

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First edition of Jumping Horse history: October 1989

Editor's note: The Jumping Horse Ranch was sold by the Becks to the Braxton Ranch Corp(Terry Braxton)and Braxtons are long time MVHA members. The Jumping Horse Ranch continues as a working cattle ranch in the Madison Valley and the history goes on. I am sure there will be more stories to tell.

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 13 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association

July 2015

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

Our mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

From the Wagon Seat: What a spring! May rain, June dry. The May moisture seems enough to help make a first cutting hay crop at least. But the other day Lynn Owens pointed out to me that the "14" on Old Baldy was already nearly melted away. On North Meadow Creek that has long been the sign that there isn't much irrigating water left in the mountains.

The annual membership pot luck was held on May 21 at the Trinity Church in Jeffers. Larry Love, Devonna Owens and Lee Robison were elected to continue serving on the History Association Board for another three years. Liz Applegate and Don Neville were recognized for their contributions; Liz for making posters and maintaining the organization website and Facebook page, and Don for his work in making picture frames and contributing his personal knowledge about Ennis History. In addition 5 members were recognized for 15 years continuous membership and 23 members were recognized for 10 years membership.

On the 30th of May, several member volunteers met to "walk the road" during our annual highway cleanup on Virginia City Hill. We started at 10AM and were finished in good time at about noon, so thank you to all who turned out to help.

June came and went so fast, it seems I woke up on June first soaked from May rains and suddenly it was the Fourth of July with fire warnings. But somewhere in that month I did manage to join other members of the History Association in a visit to the Ennis Pharmacy and Yesterday's Soda Fountain, where Corinna Christensen told members the history of the Pharmacy and Soda Fountain. Her very interesting presentation included the story of how soda water became a part of our lives, from natural springs that were thought to be medicinal to a variety of attempts through time to "make" soda water available to everyone, even if they lived continents from a soda spring. After Corinna finished her presentation, various members shared their earliest memories of the Ennis Pharmacy and pharmacists. The event was topped off with ice cream for all attendees.

Membership programs for the summer include a visit to Ruby, a visit to the Power Plant at the Ennis Lake Dam, We are making a return visit to Ruby because the last visit was such a hit and did not seem to be enough to explore completely the mining equipment and other artifacts. We will meet to carpool to Ruby at the Madison Valley History Museum at 10:00 AM on July 25. Les Gilman will be our host and will show us around. The visit to the Power Plant will be sometime in mid-August. As we get more detail we will let members know.

I have been glancing back at previous issues of the Wagon Tongue and it was interesting to see how much Larry Love, who was last year's President, has been involved. Since shortly after our incorporation as a non-profit in 2002, Larry has been either the president or the co-president almost every year, including that first year. I believe it is appropriate to recognize and applaud his dedication to the Madison Valley History Association efforts to preserve and display the history of our Valley. If we look back on the accomplishments of the History Association, Larry has been involved in helping most of them happen: the acquisition and installation of the museum, the planning and construction of the forge building, the several moves from one location to another and then finally to the museum on the hill have all had Larry's mark on them in some way. These are only a few of the more obvious examples of Larry's work to help make history of our Valley accessible. I am pleased that he remains on the board of directors so that we can continue to tap his energy and commitment. Thank you, Larry Love.

We history dabblers and buffs appreciate people who take the time to share their history and stories with us. And the History Association is always searching for anyone who has stories about our Valley, stories about the miners, farmers, merchants, ranchers, cowboys, and yes even the outlaws who lived, worked, and played in the Madison Valley. If you have a family trunk of clothing and aging notebooks and diaries, or a shoebox full of old photographs, you have history. We would like to give you an opportunity share them and the story they tell with us. If a father or mother or grandmother or grandfather told you stories of their business, friends, or life in the Madison Valley in general, this is something we would enjoy hearing.

Your Wagon Master, Lee Robison

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the April issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard. Kay Frisbee gave a great gift of memberships to the Madison Valley History Assoc. to her sons. Think of this for your family as birthdays and other gift giving times occur. Give a gift of Madison Valley History!

Noyes, Kate 406-570-4321

623 Grand
Bozeman, MT 59715

VanHooser, David (Theron) & Margaret 682-5016

P. O. Box 1658
Ennis, MT 59729

Willett, Andy 406-570-2615

415 Princeton Place
Bozeman, MT 59715

Willett, Jeff 952-892-3728

18127 Lamar Ln
Lakeville, MN 55044

Willett, Phillip

P.O. Box 144
Manhattan, MT 59741

Membership update Any outstanding 2014 memberships are now over due. Almost all of you have taken care of business and the MVHA has received your membership. Just check your address label on the envelop and you can easily tell if your membership is paid or which month you are due. Your membership is good for a full year from the month you purchase it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2015 membership is due during July, August or September or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for Individual, \$15.00 for Families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The MVHA Board of Directors appreciates all memberships that are purchased and your support as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley. If anyone needs a ride to a meeting and program, call 682-5780 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Member News

Jonathan W. Cummins son of long time MVHA members, **Liz and Bill Applegate** is currently serving in the United States Navy in the rank of Chief Petty Officer and has circumnavigated the globe in a list of diverse assignments and is currently on board the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt on an eight month

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combat deployment headed to the Middle East and Africa. *Madisonian*

The **Gene Walsh Family** were the parade marshals for the Ennis 4th of July Parade. The late Gene Walsh and Lois Walsh bought their ranch south of Cameron in 1957 after moving from California. "I think I want to move to Montana and be a cattle rancher," Lois recalls her husband, Gene, saying and that is exactly what they did. *Madisonian*

Long time MVHA members, **Larry and Shirley Love**, welcomed their first grandchild, a bouncing baby girl, Adley Love Mozako, into their family on May 20. Adley lives in California with her parents Laura and Tom Mozako.

Four generations of the **Mainwaring** family had a parade float in the 4th of July parade. 89 members of the family honored the family that got it's start in the Madison Valley 100 years ago. After the parade they had a family reunion with 129 members present and that wasn't all of them.

The Love Family gathered in Sheridan, MT on July 4th for a Memorial service for **Audrey Jennings** long time MVHA member, who was daughter of Nova Love Birdsill Bower. She passed away on Oct. 4, 2014. (Memory was printed in Jan. 2015 issue of the Wagon Tongue.

Correction from April. The correct address for **Jane Rybus** was received by the Wagon Tongue after it went to print so the corrections were hand printed. If you could not read the corrections or your copy was missed here is the correct information:

Jane Rybus
Red Oak Assisted Living
650 East North Bend Way #207
North Bend, WA 98245

Jane will welcome letters or notes so stay in touch with her.

Samantha Robison was visiting her parents, **Lee and Kathy Robison**, and used some of her time assisting with a wonderful Summer Reading program at the Madison Valley Public library helping summer readers make a map of the world.

Ann Storey, honorary MVHA member, celebrated her 101st birthday on July 14th.

Memories

Anthony A. Bubany, Jr. of New Ringgold, PA passed away on March 31 in Orwigsburg, Pa. He was born in Sheridan, Mt. to Betty (Kingrey) Bubany of Virginia City, MT and the late Anthony A.(Tony) Bubany. Anthony, Jr. graduated from Ennis High School in 1971 and he went on to attend Montana State University, North Shore College and Salem University earning a BA degree in nursing.

Mildred "Arlene" Leslie passed away on April 6, 2015. She was born on March 26, 1922 in Gilead, NE to Fred and Minnie Naiman. Arlene met Hugh Leslie in high school at Belvidere, NE and they were married June 21, 1942. *(continued pg. 3)*

(Cont from pg. 2) After Hugh finished his Army duty, he trained in veterinary medicine. Hugh and Arlene moved to the Madison Valley and set up his veterinary practice with Arlene by his side.

Jonathan Losee remembered Arlene with this story: "In the early summer of 1960, I was playing outside in front of the two story log house we rented that proudly faced Main Street with the huge open lawn and row of big cottonwood trees and log rail fence that ran along the sidewalk. The one that school kids used to sit on during lunch hour. I heard a yelp from my too short, half blind, black mutt, Buttons, who unfortunately was hit by a car. I picked him up and trotted down the street with my convulsing dog in my arms and took him to the vet hoping for immediate help. I was relieved to find Arlene Leslie at home sadly looking down at me, fully aware of the rough circumstances, offering both me and Buttons the most comforting words of love she could muster as she grabbed an old towel and made up a soft bed in their little office space for a fatally injured pup.

"Words of comfort and love—that was Arlene in a nut shell. She and Hugh provided the valley with such a wonderful personalized veterinarian service, filled with warm humor, comfort and support. And boy could she cook! We enjoyed warm "Millie-Arlenes," her signature cinnamon rolls, without fail every Christmas morning for years and years.

"Sadly Arlene is no longer with us, but our memories of her sparkling eyes, sweet smile and welcome arms will remain with us forever. She will be sorely missed in this community."

Bernard Allen Peterson passed away at his home in McAllister, MT on April 7 2015. He was born to Pete and Edna Peterson on April 26, 1946 in Anaconda, MT. He graduated from Anaconda High School in 1965 and worked for the Anaconda Copper Company as a pipe fitter. He married Pamela Bender in 1974. After completing the powerhouse in Colstrip, MT in 1984, he moved his family to Ennis, MT to start Bernie's Plumbing and Heating. After selling the plumbing business after 25 years, he purchased Emerson Halls's faucet and fixture business. Bernie loved golfing at the Madison Meadows Golf Course.

Lee Poole passed away on April 18, 2015 in Bozeman, Mt. He was born in Rocky River, OH August 20, 1948. He moved his wife, Lathie, and two kids from Rocky River to Ennis in 1973 to work at a guest ranch. In 1992, he bought 3 Gary Carter paintings and they were the first pieces for sale in the Poole Hall—later the Hole in the Wall Art Gallery. Lee bought the land near Big Sky and developed Moonlight Basin with business partners Joe Vujovich and Keith Brown. Moonlight Basin merged with Big Sky Resort in 2013.

Robert "Bob" Harrison of Ennis passed away at the Madison Valley Medical Center on

May 23, 2015. He was born Nov. 12, 1926 at Lake Village, AR to Dean and Idell (Trigleth) Harrison. After high school, he served in the Marine Corp. Upon retirement he moved to Montana where he worked as a cowboy in the Madison Valley.

Dorothy Margaret Bohrman passed away June 13, 2015 in Ennis. She was born on Feb. 20, 1920 to Harley and Dora Chambers in Universal City, CA.

Dorothy received her degree in Cosmetology in 1939. On August 4th, 1940 she married Henry James Bohrman. After Henry returned from WWII and after the birth of their second son, Dorothy went back to school and graduated from Oxnard Evening class and received her GED, something of which she was very proud. The family enjoyed many adventures and fell in love with Montana. They had the opportunity move to Montana and in 1964 they purchased the Exxon Distributorship. She was an active member of the Ennis Art's Association and was a fairly good artist.. She also worked for the Ennis Trading Post.

Storrs Myron Bishop III, long time MVHA member, passed on June 14, 2015. He was born in Glens Falls, N.Y. on June 2, 1934. After spending time in New York, US Army Airborne Division, earning a degree in English at Syracuse University. He then headed to Colorado University in Boulder to get a teaching degree and stayed in Colorado to ski. In 1973 Storrs moved to Ennis and bought ranch property south of town. He raised Norwegian Fjord horses and in his 40 years in the Madison Valley on the land he named the Willow Ranch, Storrs realized his lifelong dream to farm and raise animals. Stores also contributed to the community on the Ennis School Board, Trinity Church, Montana School Board Association, and the Montana Board of Public Ed.

Patricia Rose "Patsy" Paugh, former MVHA member, of Bozeman passed away June 19, 2015. She was born in Ennis on Dec. 27, 1938 to Earl William "Pat" Paugh and Marie Ryan Blondet. She grew up on a small ranch near McAllister and graduated from Ennis High School in 1957. She graduated from Montana State College in 1961 with a degree in Home Economics Education and worked for the Montana Extension Service at Fort Peck Indian Reservation and later taught home economics at Plains, Froid and Ryegate. Due to ill health, she moved to Bozeman.

James (Jim) E. Clavadetcher of Ennis, MT passed away on June 21, 2015 in Salt Lake City of complications after surgery. He was born Dec. 27, 1950 in Seattle, Wa. to Carl J. and Madeline Clavadetsher. After Jim's birth the family resided in Great Falls and later Billings. Jim graduated from C.M. Russell High School in Great Falls, graduated in secondary education from the University of Montana, attended graduate school at Eastern Montana College and eventually (continued pg. 4)

(cont. from page 3) received a B.S. degree in nursing at Montana State University. This led him to Ennis where he worked as a nurse.

Arlene Brown, mother of Larry and Sandy Brown passed away on June 29, 2015. Memory to follow in next issue.

History of Bowling by John Heckler

From the presentation by John from the MVHA tour of the Fish Bowl Lanes.

(Continued from April) Free speech and Bowling Seems like bowling greens, alleys, and bowling halls provided an environment for men to converse while benefitting from the physical activity of bowling. Physical activity was OK but sharing of ideas was not. 1555 Banned again..Bowling centers closed because they were being used as places of "unlawful assembly".

When the Pilgrims walked ashore at Jamestown, they brought their balls and pins to America. Bowling was then declared the earliest recreational social pass time in America. Captain James Smith returned to the colony in Jamestown, Virginia to find the colonists starving, but still happily bowling. The sport was quickly declared illegal and punishable by up to three weeks in the stocks.

You just can't keep a good game down! In Europe during the 17th century, forms of the game of bowling at nine pins became extremely popular with varieties of the game played widely in most of Europe. It was often found as a game of social amusement in inns and taverns, places where the proprietor would wish the visitor to linger in order to consume more and spend more money, and where the social humanity would meet to enjoy each other. Bowling had a unique magic because just about anyone could roll a ball! Three main forms of the game emerged by the year 1650 including German and Dutch versions of *nine pins* and an English form of nine pins called *skittles*.

The Dutch enjoyed playing nine-pins in their colony New Netherlands in 1623 in the area of New York on Manhattan Island. Bowling Green Park in the financial district of New York City was established. Bowling was here to stay!

In 1670 King Charles of England (a compulsive gambler) standardizes bowling rules in order to even the odds, and this act sets bowling up for failure in the colonies who are predominantly controlled by the Puritans and others who don't favor gambling.

In the early American colonial period, during the early 1700's, pins and bowling balls were brought to America in the luggage of an immigrant who played the game in the home country. The equipment was all hand made and as a result there were many types of pins and balls, all unique with various sizes and weights. Rules governing the play of local

bowling games varied from tavern to inn, from village to town and region to region. Even the number of pins used for play ranged from 3 to as many as 17, but the the most common form used nine pins as a target. During the early 1700's the cold winters of New England pushed the game indoors and the "bowling alley" began to emerge in saloons and taverns. Indoors, it was usually played on a polished wooden surface in various lengths such as the monastery cloister hall from ancient times or the seagoing wooden plank of the Dutch or English explorers.

By 1750 bowling had become a primary form of entertainment in America. A very active and social game began to emerge in the gathering places for the young colonial agricultural society. Where the game of nine pins was played became a place to gather to be part of a social group, a place for friends and fun. Bowling became an immensely popular activity as it offered entertainment for both the participants and the spectator.

Somewhere around 1750, the gutter was introduced to "help" not act as a barrier! The gutter was added not as a hazard, but to simplify returning the bowling ball to the player from the pin deck, a job always handled by the "pin" boy.

From 1770 to 1790, the attraction to places that offered bowling created social unions of peoples and ideas, support for the run up to the American Revolution in colonial America. Since free speech was governed and tightly controlled, the meetings in the taverns and inns where people socialized allowed the word of discourse and revolution to spread.

By the 1800's New York was appointed as the official capital of bowling The east coast was populated by Taverns, Inns and gathering places that included nine pin bowling facilities. Gambling on the game became rampant, but the noise of crashing bowling pins may have even been tolerated less! Bowling was being banned by the good citizens as the game developed scoundrels and led to alcoholism. By the 1820's laws were being passed to ban nine pin facilities throughout the East. In 1841 Connecticut lawmakers made it illegal to run any nine pin lanes in the state. In 1870 New York banned nine pin bowling. Many residents considered noisy and smelly alcohol fueled bowling saloons and taverns a "public nuisance" filled with shady characters. Bowling attracted an "unsavory crowd". Alcohol was always present where games of bowling were being played, and with their sweaty, smoky, stale beer and rum smell and always boisterous atmosphere, the taverns and the games of bowling were often despised by wives and significant others. Bowling alleys were the haunts of such vagabonds!

Cont from pg. 4) Texas became an independent republic in 1836, not part of the United States or Mexico. It was a land of extreme opportunity that was seized by the German people who established many German settlements in the new Republic. Their communities prided themselves on offering bowling as a family gaming sport by eliminating gambling and rowdy behavior. To this niche society, socializing was more important than athletic success. By 1837, nine pin bowling alleys were numerous enough in Texas to warrant an annual tax by the Republic of \$150 per year! Nine pin bowling survives in central Texas to this day.

The politicians made just a little error in creating laws. All of the ordinances that were passed were banning nine pin facilities. Oops?! The invention of today's 10 pin game quickly resulted in getting around these new laws. Seems the cops could only count to 9!

In 1848, the exciting format if the "new and popular bowling fame called The American Ten Pins" was being advertised in classified ads for gaming establishments.

During 1861-1865, around 750,000 Americans were killed in the Civil War to end slavery, the spread of bowling slowed in America. Recreational activities came second to survival. During this time (1860) Albert Edward, the celebrated side if Queen Victoria-the Prince of Wales, visited Canada and the United States (just before they were not so "united") and kept himself fit by participating in American Ten Pin Bowling.

After the Civil War-1870-the spread of 10-pin bowling reawakened with German immigrants moving into the upper states (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio,etc.). With no other rivaling sport available for the common man, bowling became a primary form of entertainment during this industrialization period. Not only was the game fun to play with its exciting penalty, strikes and spares scoring format, it was also pleasing to socialize with a beer or rum and simply observe the behavior of players and their attempts at the pins. Bowling had truly become a spectator sport too.

Railroads were pushing West and taking bowling with them. Soon Chicago would rival New York City for the most fanatical bowlers and it was said that bowling was in the "far West" state of Illinois.

In 1875 eleven New York area bowling clubs met to create rules and some standardization of equipment. No significant impact since no agreement could be reached among the clubs on the width of the lane or size of the pin.

But a bunch of Germans got together in New York City and agreed to alter and standardize the shape of the ten pin into a carafe or "bottle" shape with a belly and a head with a selected standard size for all the pins. The pin rack was modified to space

the pins further apart and harder to knock to the deck or put into the pit with a bowled ball. The game was modified to score with only two balls in each 5 frame where strikes and spares became paramount achievements for the more skilled bowlers.

Standardization came about when a restaurateur named Joe Thum got representatives from various bowling clubs from all over the country and formed the American Bowling Congress on Sept. 9,1895. The ABC would establish a standard for all bowling in America and would organize national competitions. The ABC continues its role today and is at the heart of bowling in America but is now known as the United States Bowling Congress or USBC. The Maximum score of 300 was established at that time.

1903- E.D. Peifer inaugurates a handicap method for bowling.1905-First hard rubber ball developed... the Evertrue. Max weight set at 16 #. All previous balls were of "lignum vitae" a hardwood.

1906- Brunswick-Balke-Collender opens factory to make wooden bowling bowling balls.

1906- Women refused to become members in ABC.
1916- ABC amends constitution limiting membership to white males only.

1916 -Women's Bowling Confederation founded.
WIBC

1927- World Champion Jimmy Smith beaten in exhibition against bowler Mrs. Floretta McCutcheon.

1930- First 300 score by a woman, Jenny Kekkeher of Madison, Wis..

1939- National Negro Bowling Association founded. Now called the National Bowling Association.

1941-1942-WWII- The military builds 4,500 alley bed on bases as a major source of recreation. The first exposure to bowling to many service men and women.

1941- ABC Hall of Fame instituted.Only baseball and golf have older Halls of Fame.

1940's-Bowling comes to Ennis, Mt when two lanes with manual pin setting were installed at Erdie's Bar (now the Gravel Bar) on Main St.

1948- Brunswick introduces dots and arrow markers to their lanes. Bowling scores improved.

1951- The American Machine and Foundry Company (then a maker of bakery, tobacco and apparel business machinery) purchased the patents to Gottfried Schmidt's automatic pinsetter, and by late 1952 production model pinsetters were introduced. No longer did a proprietor have to rely on "pin boys".

1959- The Professional Woman's Bowler Assoc. becomes the first organization for professional women bowlers.

1963- **The Fish Bowl— Ennis Montana** - Bob and Shirley Story laid the foundation and started the Ennis Fish Bowl. No alcohol (cont pg. 6)

For Your Reading Pleasure

Ken Robison Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield and Confederates in Montana Territory: In the Shadow of Price's Army

Confederate veterans flocked to the Montana Territory at the end of the Civil War seeking new opportunities after enduring the hardships of war. These men and their families made a lasting impact on the region. Visit with Ken Robison on Aug. 8 at the Ennis Art's Festival in the author tent at Peter T Park on Main Street.

Looking Ahead

August__ Field trip to Madison Power Plant... Date and time to be announced. Check email and Madisonian.

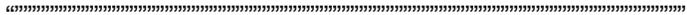
August 26: Former Secretary of State, Bob Brown, will present "The Life and Legacy of Frank Bird Linderman" at 6:00pm at the restored Frank Bird Linderman cabin at the Robber's Roost site. Program is open to the public.

MVHA Museum open until mid September or when tourists stop coming. Volunteers are needed to keep the doors open. Call Jynean at 406-682-4440 to schedule a shift for Aug or Sept.)

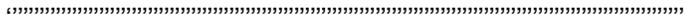


Walk of Names It is always a great time to honor a family member with a board! Help the MVHA finish the walkway to the Forge building. Remember a family member with a Memorial on the Walk of Names. Or just get one for you and your family. A great way to make a memorial, a gift, or a donation to the MVHA. The walk way project is complete but there are still blank boards. You may order a board for \$50 at the address below or you may call 406-682-5780 or 406-682-7415. Madison Valley History Association, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729. Your donation is tax deductible.=====

Madison Valley Historic Playing Cards have been selling like hot cakes so don't miss out. Check them out on the website listed on page 1 to see what they look like. They are \$10 per deck. Add \$3.00 for shipping and handling. Mail order to address above.



Of interest to members: James and Suzanne (Edwards) Nelson have a good condition copy of Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County, Montana for sale. Call them at 682- 3492 for more details.



History of Bowling (Cont from pg. 5)

was allowed but they had great burgers and fun was had by all for many years. It was the neighbor hangout for all the children after games at Ennis High School, staying open until all the buses got home. Mid 1980's- Art and Laura Dywer purchased the Ennis Fish Bowl. Then Dywers sold to Mike and Brenda Jones (year ?) and they ran the bowling alley and gradually phased it out to finally close around 2005.

2012-April 2013- John and Shannon Heckler purchased the "old" bowling alley building. They renovated the entire facility with the help of Bryan Sennette (Shannon's youngest son) and his new wife, Sarah, and upgraded the existing 1963 Brunswick A2 pin spotting (cont next column)

MVHA Board of Directors

- President: Lee Robison
- Vice-President Marty Brenneke
- Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke
- Secretary: Devonna Owens
- Director: Jimmy Carlson
- Director: Otis Thompson
- Director: Larry Love
- Historian and researcher: Don Black
- Graphic Design and Facebook: Liz Applegate
- Meeting and programs held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch the Madisonian, posters and your email for details of time, place and program. Board meetings are held on the **first** Wednesday of each month at 10:15 am, First Madison Valley Bank conference room Oct. to April and museum conference room May to Sept.
- The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2015. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed.
- Editor: Shirley Love whitneytranch@wispwest.net
- Contributing editors:
 - Madisonian* obituaries
 - Memory of Arlene Leslie* by Jonathan Losee
 - History of Bowling* by John S. Heckler

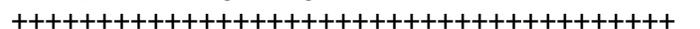
Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by the First Madison Valley Bank



(*History of Bowling cont.*) machines on all 6 lanes. The Fish Bowl was put into operation once again in the community of Ennis on October 10, 2012.

October 2013- The 50th anniversary of the old Fish Bowl and the 1st birthday of the new Fish Bowl was celebrated in Ennis, Montana!

July 2015- The Fish Bowl Lanes are open for the summer on an abbreviated schedule, Check for times and will be open in the fall for league bowling and open bowling. Join a league or come up and bowl or be a spectator and remember the amazing history of bowling that got us here. Thanks, John!



History Tidbit The Sportsman's Lodge, an important piece of Ennis History burned on Jan. 20, 2015. Although not a total loss, the main structure was heavily damaged and a lot of history was lost. Otis and Laura Crooker had a vision and purchased land as they could afford it. In 1945, they started to construct the Sportsman's Lodge on Ennis. They built the main building first and then cabins in a horseshoe shape. *Madisonian* January 29, 2015

Montana Trivia Montana State Symbols

- Motto: Oro y plata (Gold and Silver)
- Nick name: Treasure State
- Slogan: The Big Sky Country
- Song: Montana
- Flower: Bitterroot
- Tree: Ponderosa Pine
- Bird: Western Meadowlark
- Mammal: Grizzly Bear

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 13 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association

October 2015

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

Our mission is to develop a museum to house and preserve collections of artifacts, tapes, photographs and stories of historical importance to the Madison Valley and interpret them through display and education.

From the Wagon Seat: Summer's gone, but you would hardly know it on Breezy Bench up North Meadow Creek, since we had our first frost on October 3 and not enough cold yet to curl the leaves of the flowers. Well, frost or not, history wends on. And the Madison Valley History Association has had quite a good summer.

Members had an opportunity for field trips to the "ghost town" of Ruby, Montana, in July and to the Madison Power Plant in August. Ruby is an interesting story because during a couple of decades on either side of 1900 it was the hometown to around 500 people who either worked on the Alder Creek dredges or provided services to those who did. The Madison Power plant was also an interesting field trip because it and the lake formed by the dam has been part of the Valley since it was built to provide power for the dredges on Alder Creek and then to augment other power sources for the mines in Butte. In September, members heard Tom Donovan speak about research he has done for his book "Hanging Around Big Sky." All of these events were very successful. The summer has been successful for the history museum, which closed its doors for the winter on September 14. We had visitors this summer from every part of the United States and the rest of the world. All seemed impressed with what they saw.

The MVHA board continues to work on constructing another building to store and display some of the many artifacts we have. But there have been some 'glitches.' It is a rocky place out there on the VC hill, and you can't get posts deep enough for a pole barn, which was our first plan. We are hopeful the change does not increase budget requirements significantly.

Thanks to all Madison Valley History Association Volunteers Everyone who makes the Madison Valley History Association activities possible is a volunteer. From the board members to the greeters at the Museum, and this organization would not function without members who serve by taking time from other things they would like to do to contribute to MVHA. If these volunteers are like me, they get great satisfaction out of helping make things work. But, I still think we need to thank them.

So. Thanks to Mona Durham and Vicky Gordon for calling members to let them know about our field trips and lectures. Thanks also to Liz Applegate for all the service she provides, including designing our flyers and much of our other printed material.

And thanks to all the 63 volunteers who took a few hours out of their time this summer to greet visitors at the Museum. Especially, thanks to Kevin Brenneke and Jynean Skank for maintaining a schedule and asking members to fill it. I am not aware of any scheduled day that the museum did not open.

The selfless service of these individuals is part of what makes the MVHA as successful as it is. Thank you. Of course for the MVHA to continue to improve and be successful, we need more people willing to serve. One creative mind tells one story. Twenty creates a culture. What can you contribute to the MVHA in service to your community? Your Wagon Master, Lee Robison

History Trivia "Montana" comes from the Latin and Spanish word for Mountainous.

Montana is the 4th most geologically active state behind Alaska, California and Hawaii.

Montana has seven Indian reservations, covering 13,055 sq. miles or about 9% of Montana land.

Grasshopper Creek was the first major gold strike in Montana resulting in Bannack, the first territorial capital.

When Montana was declared a state in 1889, 15% of the residents had been born in the state.

There are more than 60 ghost towns around the state of Montana. (trivia from Montana Trivia by Janet Spencer)

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July issue. If you know any of these new members or if they live near you, please invite them to attend the next MVHA meeting and welcome them aboard. Kay Frisbee gave a great gift of memberships to the Madison Valley History Assoc. to her sons. Think of this for your family as birthdays and other gift giving times occur. Give a gift of Madison Valley History!

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Twin Bridges, Mt 59754

Membership update Any outstanding 2015 memberships are now due. Almost all of you have taken care of business and the MVHA has received your membership. Just check your address label on the envelop and you can easily tell if your membership is paid or which month you are due. Your membership is good for a full year from the month you purchase it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2015 membership is due during October, November or December or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for Individual, \$15.00 for Families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The MVHA Board of Directors appreciates all memberships that are purchased and your support as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley. If anyone needs a ride to a meeting and program, call 682-5780 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Member News

Longtime history member, **Dr. Jeff Safford**, was honored in Bozeman in August for the Prime Award for folks over 65 for their accomplishments, talents, and contributions to Southwest Montana. Dr Jeff has been a speaker for our history programs and has provided articles for the Wagon Tongue on the Hot Spring mining area in North and South Meadow Creek. Congratulations, Dr. Jeff.

Otis and Jo Thompson, long time MVHA members and Otis is MVHA board member, attended the 121st annual Sons and Daughters of the Montana Pioneers held in Ennis Aug. 7th and 8th. Otis received a nice donation from the Society for our history association. Thanks, Otis for representing MVHA.

Dottie Fossel was honored in the Volunteer 2

Spotlight in a recent Madisonian. Dottie is a very active history member as well as chairperson of the Madison Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees, Madison Valley Woman's Club and founding member and cochairman of the Jack Creek Preserve.

Les Gilman, although not a member of MVHA, and who gave the MVHA a tour and history of Ruby was also a featured volunteer in the Madisonian.

Dave and Jerry Wing had a big event in their lives this summer as their son, Bert Lower, married Jody Lynn McCurry. The newlyweds are making their home in Harrison.

Anita Ames was featured volunteer in the Madisonian. She gives back to the community by being a senior companion for the last 14 years, delivering meals for Meals on Wheels and volunteering at the food bank.

First Madison Valley Bank, a benefactor for the MVHA, celebrated 50 years of business in the Madison Valley with a luncheon for the community on August 22. Peter and Jinny Combs, long time MVHA members up until their respective passings, opened the bank in 1965. the 50 year celebration of the bank was the featured *Lifestyle in the July 30, 2015 edition of the Madisonian*.

Hal Pasley, an honorary MVHA member, will celebrate his 105th birthday on Nov. 12, 2015. Hal is very determined to be part of the Madison Valley history for a long time! Hal is a valuable resource for our history information and has solved many of our history questions. Hal was featured in the [Madisonian's Lifestyle page for September 3, 2015](#).

Devona Owens, MVHA board member and secretary, had a knee replacement surgery in September. She is doing physical therapy now and is recovering very nicely.

Editor's note: Member news of our members is welcomed. The editor finds as many news items as possible by visiting with members and reading local newspapers but I am sure some are missed. Please get any story or item to the editor. History and stories are being made every day._____

Memories

Avis Mae Grauman passed away on January 27, 2015. She was born on May 25, 1931 to Joel C. "Clifford" and Irene Goodwin. Due to a family tragedy, she was raised by grandparents, Solomon "Reid" and Mae Pasley on the family farm in Jeffers. She went to school in Ennis and graduated from high school in 1949. After graduation, she married Hiram "Tom" Grauman and they moved to Whitehall and bought the Jefferson Valley Grain and Feed Store from Tom's parents in 1950. From there they moved to Soap Lake, Wash and ran a hardware store and in 2004 they moved back to Montana and settled in Missoula.

Arlene Angeline (Schappert) Brown passed away on June 29, 2015 at the Madison (continued pg 3)

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Valley Manor in Ennis. Arlene was born in Rockville, Minn. From there she was working at a cafe in San Francisco, CA and met a handsome sailor, Harold Wesley Brown and they were married in April, 1946. Harold then enlisted in the Army and they traveled the world in his Army career. In 2002, the Browns moved to Ennis where they became involved in volunteer work.

Arlene volunteered for the Madison Valley Woman's Club's Nearly New Shoppe. She worked in the back room..called the Black Hole and then the Treasure Room. She worked very efficiently and quickly and we called her our "Energizer Bunny". She could work circles around women much younger than she was and kept everyone on their toes.

Lyman "Leon" Obernolte passed away August 5, 2015. He was born in Loma Linda, Calif. to Lyman and Ethyl Obernolte. Leon and his wife, Eileen, retired to Ennis and became involved in the community. After Leon's illness started, he spent his last years at Generations.

Isabelle Jeffers Harstad passed away on August 13, 2015 in Great Falls, MT. Isabelle Eleanor Jeffers Harstad was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1918 to Mary Isabelle (Belle) Jeffers and Austin Pierpont (Jeff) Jeffers. Austin was the youngest son of Myron D. Jeffers and Florence Ellen Switzer Jeffers, two of the earliest pioneers in Madison County.

After Austin returned from fighting in Russia as part of an alliance force just after the end of World War I, the family came back to Madison County and homesteaded on the Fan Mountain bench. Isabelle and her younger sister Virginia attended the one room school at Jack Creek; they raced with the Hoag and Hayden boys when no one was watching. During blizzards, she would stay in Jeffers with her Grandma Jeffers, a dignified lady who was always kind to her. When she reached high school age, Isabelle went to St. Agnes in Albany, New York, near the home of Belle's parents.

Isabelle was a sensitive and introverted child. She liked being on the ranch, but she really loved the more civilized, predictable life of Albany. She and her grandfather, Alan Gilmour, would go to movies and plays together, and she always loved Broadway plays. She felt like the country mouse with her eastern classmates, and watched carefully to learn how to fit in. She was reserved, and developed a kind of dignified manner which would relax when she got to know people. Her formality was at odds with her equally strong sense of humor and love of fun, so she could be quite different in

different circumstances, depending on how comfortable she felt with those around her.

Always a bright and curious girl, Isabelle was raised in a family that valued education, so she came back to Montana for college and graduated from the University of Montana with a major in Spanish. One of her professors, Mike Mansfield, became a friend, and they kept in contact over the years. She read a great deal and was interested in new ideas which she liked to discuss with others.

After college, Isabelle came back to Ennis and worked in her mother's store, the Valley Trading Post. She met Duff Harstad who was teaching at the high school, and they married in 1942. Duff was in the Army during World War II, and they moved from post to post, always a challenge for such a shy Montana girl. After the war, they settled in Bozeman, where Duff taught music in the elementary schools. They had two daughters, Virginia (Ginger) and Ann.

Isabelle was active in Gray Ladies at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and Daughters of the King at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. She contributed to the church bazaar each year by making beautiful crafts which took a great deal of time and care. She had a well-developed aesthetic sense, and appreciated art and music. Her home always reflected her artistic approach to life.

When Duff went back into active duty in the Army in 1961, Isabelle was faced with making a home in a new place again and again. She learned to cope with the hierarchy and rapid change of military life, and soon found that she would encounter friends from previous posts at her new home. She kept many friendships over the decades.

In 1978, Duff and Isabelle retired to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where they were active in their church and had a wide circle of friends. As always, there were many gatherings at their home, and much laughter. One example of Isabelle's sense of humor occurred when there was a houseful of family for Thanksgiving weekend. The seven adults and six children were around the table playing cards when Duff told Isabelle that she did not have a good poker face. She disappeared and came back wearing Duff's balaclava with only her eyes visible and sat down as though nothing were unusual. She could laugh at her own expense, and that quality put others at ease.

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“extras” and “gonabees” lived because rent and other things were less than in Hollywood and yet close to the studios.

I enjoyed working for Wes and his Dad as I was my own boss as long as I kept the produce rack in shape and the shelves full. Wes's Dad was old and had a stool at the counter and cash register to take the money so I could keep up with the stocking of the shelves. Wes was not there much so I ended up doing the ordering and cleaning also. Wes had a small metal airplane. I forget its name (Luscome??) and would take me flying when it wasn't too busy but he used to dive down at boat fishermen and pull up which would allow the plane to turn upside down for a second or so. I thought it was a lifetime and I mean MINE!

Entertainment was also accessible and I was susceptible, so I decided it was time for me to get out of there. That was the best decision I've ever made.

In 1941 my sister, Roberta, and I decided to get out of the city and go to Montana and see our cousins. Their ranch was 27 miles South of Ennis and operated by our cousin, Bill and Catherine Armitage.

The ranch was first homesteaded by our father, Rommel in around 1910, while he was working for Switzers ranch in Jeffers and he also had a jewelry repair shop in Jeffers. In those days you could apply to to the government for a 160 acre homestead by planting trees and increasing the productivity of the land. My dad's brother, George, then came out from Helena and applied for another 160 acres homestead next to Dad's which was a good start in the ranching business. My Dad soon sold out to George and moved to Yakima, Washington and later moved to Redlands, Calif. where he worked for the Brookside Dairy and bought some land in San Timoteo Canyon where I was raised. Uncle George and Bill eventually ended up with around 6,500 acres that extended from the U.S. Forest Service mountain lands to the Madison River.

Bill and Catherine had just gotten married before Roberta and I reached Montana. The neighbors decided to give them a chevarie party that amounted to all of them coming up to the house after dark and start honking and hollering to get them out of bed and then we all had a good potluck meal. That is where I met Grace Hippe at Mildred Kirby's insistence, as they were

neighbors to Bill and Catherine.

I started working for Bill as soon as possible after we arrived in Montana. I was offered to stay in the bunk house and I thought that would be fine but that was another experience as the sheets were so dirty and “junk” all over that I had to clean it up before I could sit down. The resident was suppose to keep his abode clean and do his own washing, but evidently he didn't. I stayed upstairs in the main house until I got the bunkhouse cleaned up a little. The school house, where my mother taught when she first came to the Madison Valley, was converted into a hired man's home. The man, wife and small baby lived there and were very nice people. He played the guitar and after work if it was not too late, I would go over to his house to visit and sing until it was time for me to go to bed. I got up early to go to breakfast and work and I needed my rest.

I believe Roberta and I arrived in Montana around the first of June 1941. My first job was cutting alfalfa hay for Bill. One thing I learned about Montana was the weather. If it was a beautiful morning, I would take my rain coat as I knew it would rain in the afternoon. If it was raining in the morning, I knew I would work outside in the afternoon.

I was lucky to get Grace to marry me on October 9, 1941. We went all the way to Butte (75 miles) for our honeymoon.

I was still working for Bill Armitage when I got my “GREETINGS” notice from the draft board in Hemet, California.

This was in the fall. The haying and harvesting was over at the Armitage ranch, so I went to work for Mr. Hippe. That is when I got my experience herding sheep, for 1/2 day. Most boring job I ever had! In November 1942, Grace and I headed towards California. We stopped in Layton, Utah to look for work as I didn't have to report to the draft board until later. I applied at Hill Field Air Base and was told they couldn't hire me because I would be going into the service soon. I agreed with them but also told them that we couldn't starve while waiting to go into the Army. I was hired to make crates for shipping objects overseas and sure enough it wasn't long before I was called to report to the Draft board in Hemet. From Hemet they bused us to San Pedro, California where I got my first experience of Army life. (Jess Armitage History to be continued in January, 2016 issue as Jess becomes an Army man.)

