

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 10 Issue 2

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
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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.

Tieryn 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: Tieryn 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.

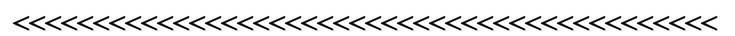
Maybe it was sheer pressure from his father, or the desire to learn about the United States, but William moved from his humble hometown to the U.S. at age fourteen. Accompanying him were his father and brother, David. Although John Ennis was the one who moved his sons, after three years of living in 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, **3**

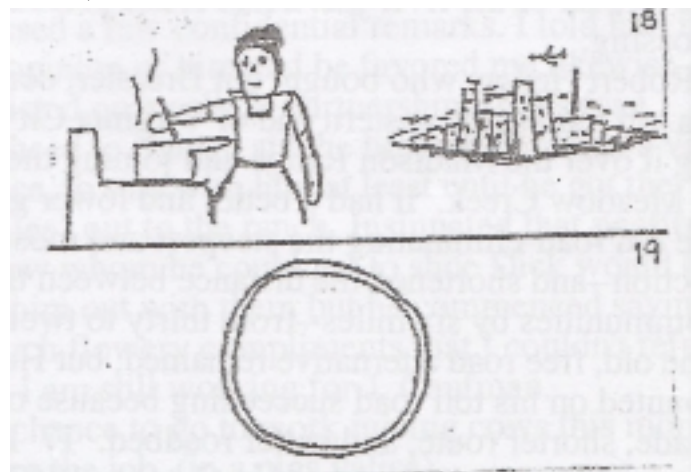
William began making hay to bring to Virginia City for more profit on his already successful business. With the boom of the gold rush in motion, William decided to build a cabin along the banks of Alder Gulch, a major gold pit near the valley. As his love for Montana grew, William eventually moved his 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 brons 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.*

**ENNIS BASKETBALL MOMENTS** by Don Black

As the MVHA Museum gets ready to open it's third season in June 2012, the historical contributions to our Research/ Archives files has dramatically increased. Those volumes have provided us with much great material for monthly programs and articles for us to share. THANKS

This past October, 2011 MVHA program Sports In the Madison Valley, Neil Kent interviewed our centurion guest, Hal Pasley, on the subject of basketball in the Madison Valley. " If you really want to know about EHS basketball, just ask Hal Pasley, because he was there at the start of it all," was Neil's introduction.

Mr. Pasley talked about playing and coaching career in Ennis. Hal remembered it all including the building / construction of the "new" EHS gymnasium of the time. He recalled " And when it was all done, we had this huge stage and a small basketball court." Then he shook his head sadly.

A note worthy BB game was played in Bozeman between the Ennis Elks and the Montana State College Bobkittens with the Ennis boys coming up two points short when it was all said and done. ENNIS ELKS TEAM: Hal Pasley, Dale Kisling, Jule Gustafson, Ben Williams, Jack Scully, Walter Romine, Ray B. Osburn, Jim Taylor, Charles Murray, and Burr Estes. The Estes name brought up the story of the tragic death of All-American, Utah State's Wayne Estes whose grandparents were the Joseph and Lena Estes family of Ennis.

Ennis BB coaches and educators mentioned included Maurice J. Hickey, Dale Kisling, Dick McGuire, Jack Scully, Madalyn McDonnell Scully, Joan Schilling, L W Goodwin, Pat Stahl, and Hal Pasley. As for the origins of the Ennis Mustang Mascot name, Jane Rybus told us that during her late high school days, the Ennis H S students were put to a vote, Monarchs or Mustangs. School colors began as blue-gold, next red-white and finally green-white.

Assorted pictures of Ennis BB Teams showed the green, short-short trunks and high top canvas shoes. Kid Neville's jersey and shorts were displayed. A tallest to shortest team portrait had Harrison Saunders on one end with Norm Chamberlin on the other. One Ennis BB Team of 1936-37 had eight players with nicknames displayed on their team photo: Tarzan, Chub, Dutch, Duke, and Turret Cap. Later on came another Dutch or two, Duke, Hungry and Breezy. Great names to cheer for !

In the WW2 years you found the Ennis BB scores on the last page of the Madisonian with the exception of one Ennis squad which had an eight straight run.

Basketball has been the big event for many decades in Ennis on those cold and windy nights. You warmed up at the dance following the games.

EHS holds the titles of District Champs, Divisional Champs and State Champs – EHS Girls Class C Montana State Champion in 1990.

Basketball runs in the blood and Shirley Jeffers

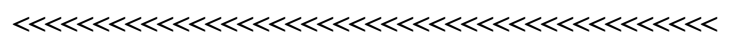
Gustafson's son David Gustafson was a University of Montana Basketball Hall of Fame member. Go Mustangs !

To continue with Sports in the Madison Valley we found **Recreation in Ennis, 1920-1974** from The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community by Minnie Paugh Editor's note: Last month the Wagon Tongue printed the skiing history and starting this issue will do other recreations in the Madison Valley starting with Minnie's works in her book on boxing in Ennis.

Emmett and Frances Womack have arranged much of the commercial entertainment in Ennis since 1920. Emmett had been a boxer a boxer in the U.S. Army during the war. On July 4, 1921 he promoted his first boxing match featuring himself matched against Larry Dunn who had been the proprietor of a saloon in Ennis before prohibition. Emmett continued to promote boxing matches for at least ten years and was on the program as a fighter in many of the matches that he set up. His brother-in-law, Pete Cerutti as an amateur boxer on the M squad at the University of Montana, and many other young men in the community were trained by Emmett so they boxed in local matches. Early boxing matches were held in the IXL Garage located where City Hall was situated. Later matches were in the Woodman Hall which is where the old Economy Grocery Store used to be. After the matches he arranged a dance that might last until daylight. Often there was a baseball game in the afternoon before the fight in the evening.

Emmett was a middleweight boxer with 168 pounds his best fighting weight. He was known as a slugger with stamina and sometimes won matches against light heavyweights. He was a gentleman in the ring as well as out. His publicity referred to him first as a dairyman from Ennis and later he was called a cowboy. His fights in neighboring towns were often at the Broadway Theater in Butte and at the Community High School Gym in Manhattan where Harry Altenbrand produced boxing matches. Some of his fights in Manhattan were benefits after the 1925 earthquake which did great damage to brick building such as schools.

One early fight bill is headed "Little Tiajuana Ennis". He had a bout against David Elliott on July 4, 1923 with a purse of \$300, winner take all: a fight against Bill Larko a Canadian heavyweight in 1923: matches with Bill Tate of California and Jack Odum, a Butte miner in 1925: a bout with Jack Gunderson of Butte in 1928. His last fight was with K.O. Franklin of Anaconda in 1929. Emmett was counted out in the sixth round.



**History Tidbit:** In the late 1880's, about 40 small power companies serving small Montana towns gradually joined together to form four regional electric utilities: Butte Electric & Power Co., Madison River Power Co., Billings Eastern Montana Power Co., and Missouri River Electric & Power Co. In December 1912, these four companies were consolidated into the Montana Power Company which is now Northwestern Energy.

## 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 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

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Director: Kevin Brenneke

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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, 1905-1905*

*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.