

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 10 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.  
website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org)  
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October 2012

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**From the Wagon Seat :Greetings** this fall season from your MVHA President and Wagon Master on our ongoing historical trail of excellence. As a fourth generation Montanan, I do admit that this wagon master has never owned a pair of cowboy boots but comes from a family of horsemen, ranchers and Montana Territorial pioneer heritage. I run faster in sneakers than in boots, which dates back to EHS track days with coaches Scully and McGowan.

The MVHA schedule these summer months has been very active. My salute goes to our Volunteers who have consistently staffed the Museum and Blacksmith facilities with kindness, promptness and expertise since this past June. Many of those folks were honored at a MVHA Volunteer Reception in September. Also you may be interested to know that Madison Valley historical research requests have been completed for relatives and historians in our valley, Madison County, Montana, California, Ohio, Louisiana, Nevada, Washington, New York and Germany. Thanks again go to those people for their donations resulting from that work. The Walk of Names boards and decking project have been an outstanding success and a huge source of revenue.

Programs and field trips have been extremely well attended and featured a Madison Valley Cemetery Tour (July), Blacksmith and Forge Day (August), Twin Bridges area tour (September) and announces Madisonian Editor – [Greg Lemmon Live](#) for October. This quarter our presenters-hosts were Don Black, Lester Klatt, Kay Frisbie, Sue Ren, Larry Love, Bob Fosnot, Glen Goldthwait, Otis Thompson, Sam Korsmoe, with Liz Applegate and David Hoag supplying photographs of the events. If you are interested in copies or photos of any printed materials, **SIMPLY**, contact [Don Black directly](mailto:donblack76@hotmail.com) at 909 Ave E Northwest, Great Falls, Montana 59404, [donblack76@hotmail.com](mailto:donblack76@hotmail.com) and telephone 406-788-0346.

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**Museum Update** by Shirley Love The museum closed for the season on September 15th with a very good season. 403 guests signed the guest book which is 74 more than last year. Where did our guests come from? 211 came from Montana with 68 of those signing in from Ennis. California followed with 32, Colorado(15), Washington, N. Carolina and Idaho each with 11, Utah( 9), Wyoming( 8 ), Arizona, Kansas and Oregon each with 7, Georgia and Nevada each with 6, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia each with 5, Illinois(3), Connecticut, Missouri, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee and Wisconsin each with 2, Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Maine, N. Dakota, Ohio and Texas each with 1. Foreign countries included Canada with 8 and Switzerland with 2. Folks will travel from all over to visit museums and we have a good one going in the Madison Valley. Many folks came to see "The Beast" or Ringdocus after all the TV time during this past year.

Thanks for being part of this success and volunteering at the museum. Special thanks goes to Jynean Skank, Kevin Brenneke and Liz Applegate for doing the scheduling this year. A big thank you to Vern Thibedeau and Larry Knittle who work almost every Thursday and Rick Arnold who worked almost every Friday. Having those folks fill a shift every week really helps with the scheduling. Thanks to all the volunteers who said yes when called and who returned calls when messages requesting help were left on answering machines. You made the day of the scheduler and you made the day of a guest who stopped by the museum and found it open.

Start planning for next season and fit a time to volunteer at the museum into your summer schedule.

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## History Tidbits

Dr. Mae Pankey was the Madison resident who became the first woman dentist in Montana. (Don Black)

October 19, 1781: American Revolution ends as Cornwallis surrenders.

October 19, 1914 The first collection and delivery of mail in automobiles owned by the government was made in Washington, D. C. From 'This Day in History' John Penniman September, 1983

Sept. 16, 1927 Naturalization paper were issued to Annie Rosella Olliffe. *Madisonian*

**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

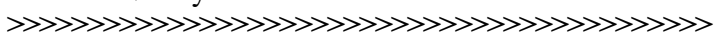
**Toot, Rick & Cathy (F)** 682-7857  
P.O. Box 1402  
Ennis, MT 59729

**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. #####  
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*

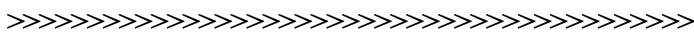
The meeting will be the occasion for the annual election of officers, and will be attended by delegates and members of the Virginia City Woman's Club, Sheridan Woman's Club, Twin Bridges Woman's Club, Harrison Woman's Club, Cardwell Country Club, Pony Woman's Club, Ruby Valley Home Demonstration Club 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 vaceum(?) 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?

