

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 12 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

January 2014

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

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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
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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

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?

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.

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 form 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.

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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.

For Your Reading Pleasure

70 Years a Cowboy A biography by T. B. Long The author said this about his writing. "The following biography is presented in all truthfulness as I remember it. It is written with two thoughts in mind. One being to portray the true active life of a cowboy and cattleman and the latter to cover a portion of the history of the vanishing prairie range known as The Great Shortgrass Country" Available at the Madison Valley History Museum and the Madison Valley Public Library.

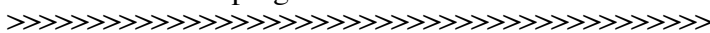
Looking Ahead

Feb. 20, 2014 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room Program: Toyia R. Hatten, Holistic Herbalist talking about herbs of Montana and old time remedies.

Mar. 17, 2014 5:00pm to 7:00pm Annual William Ennis Birthday celebration Ennis School Cafeteria

April 17, 2014 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room Program: Lee Robison presenting Family History

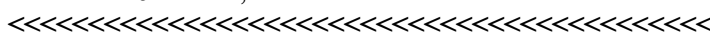
May 15, 2014 4:00pm Annual meeting with potluck dinner. Place and program to be announced



Walk of Names 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. 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 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 or for birthdays. 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 17, 2014



History of the Jumping Horse Ranch

cont from pg. 5

William Ennis had the foresight to bring three wagons loaded with goods for the miners when he arrived in Virginia City. It is reported it took him only six hours to empty his load of freight: flour purchased at \$5 a hundred was sold for \$50 a hundred; bacon purchased for \$.06 a pound was sold for \$.60 a pound. He proposed to 'rest' his team in the Madison Valley and is reported to have proclaimed to his teamsters,"Boys, if I take up a homestead in this valley, it will be right here." There he began his store, managed by his wife, while he continued in the freighting business. He dug some of the first irrigation ditches in the valley and raised an abundant hay crop, which he sold in Virginia City. After nearly 34 years of conducting business in the Madison Valley, on June 16, 1898, Mr. Ennis was shot by Martin Peel.

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice-President: Otis Thompson

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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 April 2014.

Editor: Shirley Love

e-mail. whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Contributing ediitors:*Madisonian* Obituariies

Progressive Years Madison County Montana, Vol. II

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Frank and Hetty Milroy(Bennetts) Carlson pg. 725

The Fish Bowl by Shirley Storey

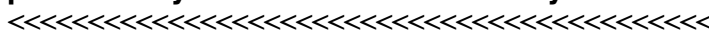
History of the Jumping Horse Ranch by Robert and

Helene Beck & Nancy Lien Griffin

"*Pile up on the bridge*" by T. B. Long

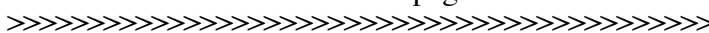
70 years a Cowboy

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



Peel was a successful miner of some repute. He owned several rich claims in Alder Gulch and at one time financed a quartz mining operation in Pony. Martin Peel, his wife and two daughters, settled on property near Jeffers, now the home of Gary Clark. Peel apparently became engaged in a disagreeable business deal with Mr. Ennis. The murder took place on the main street of Virginia City. Some will say Mr. Ennis 'deserved it' --if one can ever say murder is deserved. Some will claim that Peel was crazy, and any fortune he had acquired, he had lost and was heavily in debt to Mr. Ennis. Martin Peel lived out the remainder of his years in the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge for the murder of William Ennis.

History of the Jumping Horse Ranch will continue with William Maginness and on to Wetmore and Dorothy Hodges in the April 2014 issue of the Wagon Tongue. Anyone who missed the first installment can find the back copies of the Wagon Tongue on the MVHA website. Address is on the front page.



Montana Trivia Answers to #26 Hungry Horse and #27 Plentywood From October 2013.

