

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 14 issue 4

Madison Valley History Association

October 2016

website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

Visit MVHA on Facebook: "Madison Valley History Association"

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

From the Wagon Seat: October and leaves still on the trees! Well, we take it as it comes. Next year I'll be eating garden fresh tomatoes at Thanksgiving the way things are going! The Museum is closed for the winter now, but it had a very successful summer, with approximately 330 visitors who signed the guest book. The museum is a service that members of the Madison Valley History Association, working as volunteers, provide to the community and those who visit our Valley.

Because our member volunteers are so important to the success of our Museum, we ended the summer on September 17th with an open house and pot luck at the Museum's new building to thank them. Over forty members and people from the community attended and gave hearty thanks to those who make our museum available to visitors. The MVHA board also expressed special thanks to Jynean Skank for her efforts in calling and asking people to host and so keep the museum open. We also thanked Vern and Don Thibodeau for donating and installing a flag pole.

This summer has been a great time for contributions to our museum. Not only have we received some pretty nice cash contributions, but many people have donated papers and artifacts that passed through the hands of Madison Valley residents. We are extremely grateful to all who have made these efforts supporting the preservation of the history of our Valley.

If we properly document our acquisition of these items, they will help enrich our collection. Documentation of each item may seem like a unnecessary bureaucratic bother. But completing the paperwork ensures that legal ownership and responsibility are clearly defined. This however, is only one aspect of why documenting transfer of historic objects is necessary. History is not a bracelet gathering dust in a display case, which is all you have without documentation. History is the story of who wore that bracelet, how they got it, and how it came to be in the Madison Valley. In order to start to put that information together, it is necessary to complete basic donation paperwork on an item—whether bracelet, photograph, hay rake, or anvil—so that historians can begin to put the story together. That is how history lives.

Other examples illustrating why the story behind the artifact or object is important are the MVHA field trips this summer. In July we visited Sterling and saw the old buildings and what was left of an ore milling building. While the buildings were interesting structures, it was the stories that Tim Jackson and Larry Love told us about how and why those buildings came to be there that made our field trip so pleasurable. In August we visited the Whitney and Woodworth houses. I think all who were there were interested in seeing the old houses. But it was the stories told about the people who built them and lived in them that everyone wanted to hear about and talk about. One of the sad things about these field trips is the number of times we hear "I don't know," because the story has been lost with the passing of those who do know, and so the stories that have come down to us is all we have to understand what happened. What we did hear about the people who lived there and the things they did brought some faint murmur of life to these places. And that made the trip enjoyable.

A part of the Madison Valley History Association's and Museum's task is to ensure that, when someone comes looking for information about ranching or any other enterprise that happened in the Madison Valley, we have information to help them write a great comprehensive history. Lee Robison Your Wagon Master

Our October program was Indians of Montana so the following is a short story about Indian Mattie by Lucille Dixon.

Although many Indians of the old West were feared by people, some Indians came to Virginia City every summer and camped near the slaughter house which was close to the campgrounds at the edge of town. Sometimes as many as seven came on horseback, bringing their tepees and other equipment on a packhorse. They visited the slaughter house and were given meat that could't be sold.

One of the most remembered was Indian Mattie. When she was young she washed for housewives, using an old washboard. She was considered a good worker and the women and gave her food and clothing she could use.

Many of the young children were frightened of her and their parents would say, "If you don't behave, Mattie will get you." One day a youngster was backing around the house listening to the grocery list and backed right into Mattie's arms. He took off in a hurry when he found out where he was and Mattie got quite a kick out of it.

Membership The following are new members since the *Wagon Tongue* went to print in July. Add them to any membership list you are keeping and welcome them to membership. Remind them of the meetings and special events of the MVHA.

Laqua, Diane and Gary (F) 707-372-5116

P.O. Box 1365

Ennis, MT 59729

Norman,(Covey) Dorothy(F) 541-352-6177

6150 Trout Creek Ridge Rd.

Mt. Hood Parkdale, OR 97041-7649

Montgomery, Gloria and Sidney (F) 601-955-7274

P.O. Box 144

Ennis, MT 59729

Mooney, Gerry (I) 510-697-2907

P.O. Box 652

Ennis, MT 59729

Robertson, (Covey) Jessie (I) 801-607-2859

2844 W 620 N

Provo, UT 84601-8226

Zeman,(Covey) Mary Martha (I) 541-352-7414

P.O. Box 388

Mt Hood Parkdale OR 97041-0388

Membership update 2016 memberships are now due as you receive your renewal application. Almost all of you have taken care of business and the MVHA has received your membership. Just check your address label on the envelope and you can easily tell if your membership is paid or which month you are due. Your membership is good for a full year from the month you purchase it and you are not penalized for submitting early. If your 2016 membership is due during October, November, or December or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for Individual, \$15.00 for Families, \$50.00 for Businesses, \$100.00 for Patrons and \$500 or more for Benefactor. If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The Board of Directors has voted to have a membership dues increase in January 2017 so make sure your 2016 memberships are submitted in 2016 as if you are late and pay in 2017 you will be assessed the new amount. All memberships starting in January 2017 will be for the newly voted amount...Student \$10, Individual \$15, Family \$20. Business \$50, Patron \$100, and Benefactor \$500.

The MVHA Board of Directors appreciates all memberships that are purchased and your support as this allows them to have funds to continue

2

the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley.

If anyone needs a ride to a meeting and program, call 682-5780 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Member News

Brand new MVHA members, **Diane and Gary Laqua**, purchased the 15,000th ticket at the Madison Theatre and received a gift certificate. 15,000+ movie goers have attended movies at the theatre since it opened after remodeling on May 13th, 2013.

MVHA member, **Janet Allstead**, was chosen for the Volunteer Spotlight in the Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016 *Madisonian*. She was honored for her commitment to Virginia City since she moved there in 2012. She loves history and does a lot for history of Virginia city and faithfully drives over the hill to participate in the history of the Madison Valley.

MVHA board member and secretary, **Otis Thompson**, recently had surgery for heart by passes in Missoula. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he begins his long recovery.

Memories

Lynn Renee Moon passed away on August 5, 2016. She was born in Trenton, NJ on April 6, 1954. She moved to Montana in 1978, fell in love with the country and made it her home. She lived at McAllister and was known for her horses and other pets. She ran a shuttle service for fishermen, bowled on the senior bowling league and always invited the Audubon Christmas bird count folks to check out her bird feeders for their counts.

Phyllis Dewald Travis Bowles passed away on August 8, 2016 in Ennis, MT. She was born on October 19, 1935 in New Jersey to Dean and Gladys Travis. She went to school there and worked there until she met Jack Bowles on a dude ranch vacation. They were married Jan. 11, 1959. Their first home was in Big Sky but that was when no one else lived there. In 1960 they moved to the Beardsley Stock Ranch near Ennis where Jack would be manager until 1977. In 1977 Phyllis started a new adventure. She and Ginny Combs partnered up and bought the Ennis Trading Post. After many years she sold the store to stay home and care for Jack. She was a faithful volunteer at the local food bank well into her later years.

Francis Harold "Hod" O'Donnell, Jr. passed away August 11, 2016 at the Rosebud Health Care Center in Forsyth, MT. Hod was born on Feb. 14, 1924 in Billings, MT to Francis Harold and Margaret Spurling O'Donnell, Sr. He served in the Navy, married Sadie Deveny on June 29, 1947 and his second career was with Ciba Geigy Pharmaceutical. After his retirement he and Sadie

continued on page 3

(Continued from page 2)

moved to Ennis. While in Ennis, Hod was president of the Ennis rodeo Association, a Montana Brand Inspector and was actively involved in the Ennis chapter of the VFW. After Sadie's passing, Hod married Kay Zent in Ennis in August 1986. They enjoyed 20 years in Ennis before moving to Hysham, MT in 2006. In July 2016, Hod was honored by the Ennis VFW with a Quilt of Valor for his service to our country.

Mary Holmes Lielke passed away September 3, 2016. Mary was born Dec. 27, 1930 in Minot, ND to Ole and Anna Holmes. She grew up on a farm in Lansford, ND and graduated from Lansford High School in 1948. On Feb. 14, 1961, Mary married Walter Lielke. Together they owned a grocery store in Lansford. Soon they moved to Minot and then to Ennis in 1973. She enjoyed following Walt on his numerous bowling adventures.

Elma "Carolyn" Rutherford Darby, mother of Toni Bowen, long time MVHA member, passed away September 7, 2016 at the Madison Valley Hospital. Carolyn was born in Rego, Indiana to Merle and Eska Rutherford. She graduated from Paoli High School. She married Paul Freeman in 1940. Together they moved around the world. Carolyn moved to Ennis in 2012 to be closer to her daughter, Toni. Carolyn was an avid golfer and was still taking lessons at the age of 94 with Pat Stoltz at Madison Meadows. Pat claimed that she still had a great swing. She was a good driver and still driving at 96. The DMV had just renewed her license for another 4 years.

Long time MVHA member, **Mary Ann Baker Gorman Alger** passed away Sept. 12, 2016 in Kennewick, WA. She arrived in this world special delivery at the McAllister Post office on Sept. 3, 1928, where her great aunt Annie Thexton McAllister delivered her. Her parents are Annie Thexton Neville and Donald Edward Neville. Her parents made many moves in their married life. Her father was a cowboy and a horse trainer and her mother very willingly went wherever he had a job, be it at a cow camp, training barn, building a river bridge, blasting a tunnel through the Bozeman hill, assembling airplanes, building a dam, freighting, working on a dredge, working on a railroad or driving a mail route. During that time all their children were born with Mary Ann being the oldest. Mary Ann started school in Ennis in 1934. In 1943 the Neville's moved to Bozeman where Mary Ann attended high school for half of the year. She graduated from Ennis High School in 1946. Following graduation she worked as a waitress until she and Vincent "Bud" Baker were married on Sept. 22, 1946. They owned

and operated the Riverside Motel. Mary Ann operated the motel for three years after Bud's death and then sold it. She then enrolled at Vo-Tech School in Billings, MT and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse and worked at the Madison County Nursing Home in Ennis, MT until 1984 when she married Jack Gorman. Jack passed away in 1998 and she married George Alger on Sept. 27, 1999. George and Mary Ann were some of the first members of the Madison Valley History Assoc. joining in 2000 and Mary Ann served on the Board of Directors and was secretary from July 2004 until October 2008. She was honored as a 15 year member in 2013.

Patricia "Pat" Leona Morrison Bammel passed away on Sept. 24, 2016. She was born Sept. 16, 1924 in Los Angeles, CA to Charles R. and Evelyn Morrison. She graduated from Van Nuys High School in 1943. Pat met her husband in Hawthorne, Calif. and they were married Oct. 24, 1947, in Van Nuys, CA. Pat followed her husband to Oregon, Washington, Utah and they moved to Montana in 1973. They worked a small grocery store in Harrison, MT and worked as ranch managers for 15 years at the Granger Ranches and retired to Ennis in 1990. Pat began working at the Madison Valley Manor part time and worked another 12 years. Pat's favorite pastime was bowling and liked keeping score for bowling tournaments before the automated scorekeeper boards were installed. For 10 years Pat and her husband placed flags on Memorial Day at the Madison Valley Cemetery in Ennis.

Long time MVHA member, **Rebecca Jo 'Becky' Robison Grauman** passed away Sept. 27, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV. She was born Jan. 8, 1952 in Ennis, MT to Wayne Lee and Floral Judy Robison. Becky grew up on ranches in Montana and British Columbia, Canada. She finished her high school education in Canada, then earned her bachelors degree from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. She married David Grauman on Aug. 3, 1974 in McAllister, MT. She taught for a few years in Harrison and Ennis before starting her family. In August of 1991, the family moved to Moapa, NV where Becky resumed her teaching career.

Edward G. Williams Sr. passed away October 5, 2016 in Ennis, MT. He was born Jan. 16, 1936 during the Great Depression in California. He graduated from Lynwood High School in 1954. In 1956 he married Darlene Cross. He worked in construction and carpentry most of his life. After suffering multiple strokes, his family moved him to Ennis to be near son, Ed, Jr. He spent his final years living in Ennis and then at the Madison Valley Manor.

Continued from page 4

Elk River was the only place where good, warm comfortable quarters could be obtained. Pierre Bottingeau of St. Anthony built a large hotel there the previous year. These teamsters were, as they should have been, paid liberal wages.

Otis Whitney story to be continued in January
Wagon Tongue.

On August 27, the History Association visited the old John Woodworth home, one of the last remnants of a family that had a great deal to do with the early history of the Madison Valley. The first of the family, arrived in the Madison Valley in 1863. This was Ray Woodworth who had been following the gold camps since leaving his Ohio home in 1861. By the spring of 1864, he had bought equipment and seed in Salt Lake City and was farming on river bottom land near Jeffers. Al Noyles, in his [History of Southern Montana](#), claims that Ray was “the first man to farm in the Madison Valley.” There is some local controversy on that matter, but whether or not he was the first, he was among the first.

In the next 4 years two of Ray’s brothers followed him and began farming and ranching in the Madison Valley. In 1865, we find George as a guest at Ray’s farm, and looking around for a place of his own. Then in 1867, John came to Montana. Of these brothers only John stayed in the Madison Valley. Ray eventually moved on to Eastern Washington to settle. George took up ranching near Wisdom, Montana. But John settled here in the Madison Valley.

His ranch was based about five miles north of Jeffers and included river bottom lands and bench lands east of the river. At its largest extent it included property near Cameron as well. About 300 acres of his property was condemned as lakebed when the Madison Dam was built. In 1900, he and his wife, Alice, built a house that still stands and that is still owned and lived in by one of his descendants. In 1911, John hosted a family party at this house to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of a fourth Woodworth brother, Miles.

Although John was the only brother to settle in the Valley, he was not the only Woodworth. Two Woodworth Sisters, Amanda and Hannah, followed their brothers to Montana, and one of them also settled in the Madison Valley. Amanda married James Saunders in April 1878. Amanda was

5

known, as her niece Ida Woodworth McKee put it, for her “honor of ushering a goodly part of the population of the Madison Valley into the world, many of whom were without a doctor’s service.” Amanda was, in other words, a midwife.

One other Woodworth made their way to the Madison Valley, and that was Ida Woodworth McKee, who was Miles Woodworth’s daughter. She came with her husband and their first six children in 1897, and the Woodworths then living in Montana helped her and her family settle in the Madison Valley. In 1903, they bought the improvements on state land near Jeffers from O.G. Smith, Hannah’s husband. The draw that the Jack Creek Bench Road uses to go onto the bench is still called McKee Gulch.

If you were to look at the most recent census, you would find many descendants of these pioneers currently living in the Madison Valley, but none of them are named Woodworth. John married Alice Miller from Ohio, and though they had no children, they adopted Alice’s niece, Elizabeth Grice. The current owners of the Woodworth mansion are descended from Elizabeth through her marriage to Morris Kilner. There are also still descendants of Amanda Woodworth Saunders and Ida Woodworth McKee in the Madison Valley. *By Lee Robison Great Grandson of Ida Woolworth McKee*
Woodworth History continued with Treasure House from Bozeman Chronicle Feb.3, 1991 by Barb Smith
The stately Woolworth mansion has returned to its former elegance.

When Danette Segota was a little girl, she’d pass by the Woolworth mansion on Ennis Lake and pretend that some day she would live there. The old house fascinated her: it was her dream house although she never thought for a moment her dream would come true.

Today the house overlooking Ennis Lake is indeed hers. She and husband, Gayle, and children spent years restoring the mansion to its former elegance.

“The house has got a lot of history and changes since it was built.” says Danette. “We’ve spent years putting it back like it was.”

Gayle’s great-great uncle John Woodworth built the mansion for his new bride, Alice on a hill overlooking the Madison River in 1900. *Woodworth House history continued in January*
Wagon Tongue

For Your Reading Pleasure The editor has run out of suggestions or ideas. Please help.

Looking Ahead

November 17, 2016 (To be announced) If you have a suggestion of a program you would like please contact a member of the board.

November 26, 2016 Holiday Bazaar Ennis Elementary School and Gym Stop by the MVHA booth to pick up Christmas gifts or purchase a Walk of Names Board to remember a family member at Christmas time

December 15, 2016 Christmas dinner or party

January 19, 2017 (To be announced) Again if you have a program idea that you would like to hear please contact aboard member

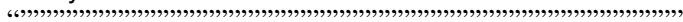


Historic Plaques for Downtown Ennis Business Buildings

Zoe Todd and Liz Applegate, both residents of Ennis and members of the Madison Valley History Association, are seeking your help with our Historic Plaques Project. Beautiful plaques containing historical information will be mounted on the outside of the old buildings in downtown Ennis. The exterior placement of the plaques will make it easy for everyone, residents as well as visitors, to appreciate the architecture and story of each building.

We are currently researching the old buildings of Main Street. If you have any information to share such as ownership or tenant names and dates, old photos of interiors and/or exteriors, we'd love to hear from you. We can scan your photos and return your originals, and welcome digital images via email. Another way you can contribute is by making a donation to the Ennis Main Street Historic Plaques account at First Madison Valley Bank.

If you would like to share historical information, or have any questions, please contact us: Zoe Todd (682-4360), Liz Applegate (682-3288 or email: liz.billapplegate@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you!



Honorary Member **Hal Pasley** turns 106 on Nov. 12, 2016. MVHA wishes him a Happy Birthday and is printing one of his poems for all to enjoy.

FATHER TIME by J. Hal Pasley

It's been about a year or so,
Perhaps a few weeks more
This stranger, whom I've never seen,
came knocking at my door
Before I could get on my feet
To go and let him in
This man appeared before me
He was old and pale and thin
His voice was like a whisper
his cheeks had sunken in
His eyes still held a sparkle
his hair was white and thin
He said "please don't be frightened"
I've called on you before
This is my final visit
You won't see me any more

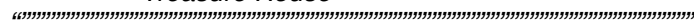
MVHA Board of Directors

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 - Historian and researcher: Don Black
 - Graphic Design and Facebook: Liz Applegate
- Meetings and programs held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month or as scheduled. Watch the Madisonian, posters and your email for details of time, place and program. Board meetings are held on the **first** Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am, First Madison Valley Bank October to April. *The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be January 2017. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed.

Editor: Shirley Love whitneypranch@wispwest.net
Contributing editors:

- Madisonian* Obituaries and Volunteer spotlights
- Annie Neville Annie Isabella (Thexton) Neville
- pg 762 *Progressive Years Madison County Montana Vol II*

- Lee Robison *Woodworth Family History*
- Dan Whitney *Otis Crocker Whitney Family History*
- Barb Smith *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* Feb. 3, 1991
- Treasure House*



I've watched you from a distance
You've lived beyond your prime
Please let me introduce myself
my name is Father Time
You've outlived all your neighbors
Your friends have long been gone
You must be rather lonesome
Why do you linger on
For years you have defied me
Now I am leaving you alone
I'll devote myself to others
Your future is your own
For years you've been a problem
I've mentioned it before
My patience is exhausted
We won't discuss it anymore
I had now regained my composure
I have one request for you
Please grant me one more golden year
I've neglected things to do
He nodded his approval, smiled
and said, "I'll make it two"
He made a quick departure
and disappeared from view
I sat, numb confused and weary
I felt his message was extreme
Suddenly, I awakened
Father Time was just a dream