

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 15 issue 2

Madison Valley History Association

April 2017

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: Rain! It is raining! All winter we have praised and wondered about the lack of snow and cursed the drying wind. But, somebody has finally got the rain dance right, and we have rain.

This winter has been a good time for the Madison Valley History Association. On January 23 community members were present to hear Peggy Shumsky give an excellent presentation on the history of cardiac rehabilitation. In February, Historian Ken Egan used his book, *Montana 1864* as a basis for his talk on the year Montana became a territory of the "States." And of course on March 17, the MVHA had its Irish Stew Fund Raiser, which was very successful this year, clearing nearly \$280.

On April 20th the MVHA featured John Gecho talking about the McAtee family and Cameron, Montana. In May the MVHA will have its annual membership organization meeting for election of Board members. This meeting will be a pot luck and will feature Lynne Mahan speaking about her relative, Hughie Call, who wrote novels and a memoir about sheep ranching in the Madison Valley. We are also hoping to have a small auction as a fund raiser. The MVHA is looking for a few items to offer at the auction. If you have an item of novel or historic interest please contact one of the Board Members. The June meeting will feature the first woman elected to Congress, Montana's own Jeannette Rankin as presented by Mary Jane Bradbury, an independent scholar and actress.

The MVHA has many projects that it would like to get under way or continue, and we are looking for sponsors to fund or partially fund and, in some cases, manage them. Below is a partial list of possible projects:

- (1) Completion of Cataloging. Last Summer we had a professional historian who got us started cataloging our collection. The MVHA would like to pay someone who would continue with the cataloging. Last year we spent just over \$3,800 for about three months work. We expect that there is about 18 months to 2 years of work left to be done.
- (2) Signage for the museum. This project includes funding and placing a large sign at the highway entrance of the museum. We are not sure of cost for this project but expect it would be between \$2,000 and \$5,000. We are also looking for funding and a manager to work on signs and display captions inside the museum.
- (3) Parking dedicated for overnight parking of tourist motor homes. The MVHA was recently approached about using some parking space for people using motor homes or caravans to tour our Madison Valley. All MVHA would be obligated to provide is parking space. This would mean that we would have people parked near the museum who would likely want to see it and perhaps make small donations. Unfortunately we do not have a parking lot large enough to handle motor homes as well as visitors to the museum.

These are just a few of the ideas the MVHA Board of Directors believes would enhance the Museum and how it serves our community. As always we are looking for your input and assistance in ensuring your Madison Valley Museum is one of the best in Southwest Montana. Your Wagon Master, Lee Robison

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MVHA Raffle. Kevin and Marty Brenneke generously donated a 1983 Browning Ducks Unlimited 12 gauge shot gun with case. You will find the picture and information about this gun enclosed with your Wagon Tongue. MVHA is asking all members to help out by selling raffle tickets for this raffle. Clip off the order blank to order your tickets. All we need is your name and address and check for number of tickets sold. List the names and addresses of all folks you sell tickets to on a separate piece of paper. The treasurer and her committee will do the rest and all your tickets purchased will go into the raffle box. Thank you for helping out on this raffle. Money received from this raffle go to finishing the newest building. if you live here or come to visit this summer come by the museum and see the new building. This summer raffle has been our best fundraiser over the past several summers and we thank you for helping.

Membership: The following are new members since the *Wagon Tongue* went to print in January. 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.

Carlson. Claude and Claudia (F) 406-223-1727

P.O. Box 374

McAllister, MT 58740

Clark, Joan (I) 682-7441

Ennis, MT 59729

Cummings, Dan (I) 581-9007

322 Ennis Lake Road

Ennis, MT 59729

Membership update 2017 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 for 2016. 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 2017 membership is due during April, May or June or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. The Board of Directors has voted to have a membership dues increase in January 2017 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.** If you are inviting someone to join or if you want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P. O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

The MVHA Board of Directors appreciates all memberships that are purchased and your support as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley and arranging programs for the community.

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

Member News Long time MVHA member, **Polly Todd**, was selected by her peers to be Queen of Hearts for Valentine's Day at the Tobacco Root Mountains Care Center in Sheridan.

Cleo Wages, mother of MVHA member, Jo Thompson, was selected to be Queen for Valentine's Day at the Madison Valley Manor. **2**

Cecil Klatt was selected King and he is the brother of MVHA member, Lester Klatt.

Jules Klinf "Duke" Gustafson was recently selected to be inducted posthumously into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. Duke was married to long time MVHA member and founder of the MVHA, Shirley Sue Jeffers Gustafson. Both Duke and Shirley are deceased.

The **MVHA** made the Madisonian Lifestyle page with *Celebrating their Founder* and a nice article about the annual William Ennis Birthday Party. All the board members were pictured. Check it out.

Memories

The *Wagon Tongue* has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents who have passed on. Please help by sharing your stories and memories of deceased members or residents to the *Wagon Tongue*. Obituaries from 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 Pioneer Trails and Trials* and *Progressive Years* have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometimes there are good stories that have never been printed. You do not have to worry about penmanship, grammar, sentence structure or spelling, so help out if you have a story to tell. Your editor will take care of that. The *Wagon Tongue* does not want anyone excluded or limited to just a few sentences because of lack of stories.

Denise (Deegee) Keller passed away on Dec. 15, 2016 in Great Falls, MT. Denise was born May 23, 1946, to Leland (Sport) and Alice Shelton Keller in Butte. While just an infant, the family moved to the Shelton ranch at Cameron owned by her grandparents, Sam and Eula Shelton. The family soon moved to their own ranch south of Ennis and she graduated from Ennis High School in 1964. She went to business school in Billings and then studied fashion design at the Trap Hagen School of Art and design in New York. She was a self taught artist and also studied under several well known artists.

Edna M. Schoenek Lay, long time MVHA member, passed away on Jan. 21, 2017 in Las Vegas, NV. She was born on March 23, 1923 to Ferd and Johanna Hubner Schoenek. The Schoeneks built a house at the South boundary of the Missouri Flats. There was a natural spring there and Edna's mother had a big garden and canned vegetables and berries, as well as elk meat and fish. In the summer her father farmed and built trail on Beaver Creek in the National Forest.

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Gradually the Schoeneks accumulated land bought from other homesteaders until their total holdings were 1500 acres. They sold out to Peter Anderson of the Ruby Valley and moved to Ennis, bought the Fitzgerald Hotel and Cabins and operated that for many years. (editor's note: The hotel was then called the Schoenek Hotel. Then was sold to Maurice Hickey..thus the Hickey Motel and the area is now named the Lone Elk Mall.) Edna graduated from Ennis High School in 1941. Edna went on to school to be a chiropractor and married John H. Lay. Edna contributed several stories for the *Wagon Tongue*, lived in Bozeman, MT in the summer and Las Vegas, NV in the winters. *Pioneer Trails and Trials* Edna Schoenek Lay, DC pg 160

Donna Rae Wagner passed away Feb. 8, 2017 in Ennis, MT. Donna was born on October 19, 1941 to Donald and Florence Snow in San Jose, CA. She married Robert Wagner in 1961. After moving to San Diego, CA., Donna began working for Hewlett Packard while she attended night school to earn her degree as an electronics technician. She went on to become the first female electronics technician at Hewlett Packard. She eventually moved to Ennis, MT and met John Bouch and spent time between Delaware and Montana. They settled in Twin Bridges, where she was able to fulfill a lifelong dream of working as a librarian.

George Charles Schabarker passed away Feb. 14, 2017. He was born in Ennis, MT to Fred and Anne Schabarker. He lived the majority of his life in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School in 1948. He played on the first football team that was formed after WWII was over. He enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve and after the Korean War broke out, he went active duty Air Force.

He married Dorothy Wells and moved to Montana. He worked at various ranches, was custodian at Ennis Elementary School, did carpentry work and finished his working career at the talc mine.

The Schabarker family history in the Madison Valley goes back a long way. The early family arrived in Bozeman in 1882 by train. Henry Schabarker was born in Badenbaden, Germany and came to the United States at a young age. He married Lamira L. Schweitzer and lived in New York for some time before coming to Bozeman. They ran the first rooming house in Bozeman. They then moved to the Madison Valley and lived for a time at Meadow Creek on a ranch. George, George's grandfather, grew up to be a cowboy and rancher. In 1894 he married Minnie Helen Buel and they lived on a ranch on North Meadow Creek now owned by Lynn 3

and Devonna Owens. The Owens still call the ranch the "Schabarker Place". Fred, George's father, was born to that union and married Anne Johnson.

Pioneer Trails and Trials "Schabarker" by Darlene McDowell pg 159-160

Rieta Bausch Calvert passed away on March 13, 2017 at the Danville Regional Medical Center in Danville, Va. She was born in Ennis, MT to Charlie and Mamie Lee Kinder Bausch. She graduated from Ennis High School in 1945. She married Cecil Calvert and resided in Virginia. Her brother is MVHA member David Bausch.

Memorials for 2016

Memorials were given to the MVHA in 2016 in memory of:

Mary Ann Alger

Becky Grauman

Ray Hippe

Marvin Love

Ann Storey

Plan to give memorials to departed family and friends as a way to receive a tax deductible donation and support your museum.

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Otis Crocker Whitney His Life and Times 1815-1892

compiled by Dan Whitney continues with part 3

In the January issue, we left Otis Whitney and his family and James Saunders escaping the gorge waters and building a new cabin on the banks of Whitney Creek.

One year later, February, 1866, Thomas Whitney was born in this new cabin. They finished the winter there. At odd spells they managed to move the old Tex cabin from the bank of the river to a spot about 200 feet above the cabin previously erected. They put it up about twenty feet to the west of the creek, using a large flat triangular rock for the doorstep.

There is some confusion about the number and fate of the children of Otis and Eliza. In the *History of Montana, 1739-1885*, in the chapter on Madison County, there is a paragraph on Otis C. Whitney. Therein is made the statement that they had seven children, named Jane, William, Dallas and James, all deceased with Thomas H., Emma O and Ellen Maria living, all born in Montana. In "*The Whitney Family*," by Aylean (Whitney) Harris, granddaughter of Thomas Henry Whitney, she relates that when Thomas was born on Feb. 18, 1866, he had the distinction of being the first white child born in the Madison Valley. She says, "Many cowboys and Indians for miles around came to see this little white baby boy."

Emma married Charles Armitage, Ellen Maria married Elmer Burger and Thomas married Ida Thompson from Wisconsin. *continued on pg 4*

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Early in the spring of 1865, Mrs. Whitney and daughter, Zelfia Parks, returned to the ranch and started a dairy, the first one in Madison County. As stated before, the Whitney family used cattle to draw the wagons from Lake Pepin to Denver; these cows furnished them an abundance of butter on their journeys. They even sold some of it. After milking the cows in the morning, the bucket of milk was tied to the back part of the wagon. At night they always had fresh butter and buttermilk. After landing in the Madison Valley, Mr. Whitney had about thirty five head of milk cows. It was from these same cows that Mr. Whitney started into the cattle business.

Your author/compiler has found additional details relating to the beginning of the dairy business in the Madison Valley.

O.C. Whitney became one of the first Madisonians to profit from the dairy market. Whitney, like William Ennis, had forsaken the Denver diggings to move farther north. Arriving in the Valley during August, 1864, he purchased the holding of an ex-cohort of Jack Slade. In 1865, after driving his cattle to the Valley from Utah, Whitney started a dairy the following year and soon was "milking about 35 cows". In addition, Whitney turned to the production of butter and in one year he made as much as 5,000 pounds. Selling milk, butter and cheese brought Whitney, in 1866, the handsome profit of seven thousand dollars. Instantly the manufacture of butter and cheese became a chief occupation of Ennis and Whitney's other neighbors.

Over the years the dairy business remained an important income to the Madison ranchers. The dairy business continued to yield a larger return than beef cattle as long as Virginia City remained the Territory's capitol, the gold camps maintained large populations, and the sale of dairy goods did not become overburdened with dairymen. The Madison Valley supported six dairies until the turn of the century. (*"History of the cattle industry in the Madison Valley"* Carl Louis Yeckel, *The University of Montana, 1969*)

In the spring of 1865, Mr. Whitney bought the Odell Hay Ranch from Andrew Odell. It was located a mile up the river. In a few years Mr. Whitney fenced both ranches into one. This gave him, a large ranch on which he put about 400 tons of good hay. By means of this hay, Mr. Whitney entered into the business of buying and selling cattle. *Early Days in the Madison Valley* by James S. Spray

In the winter of 1865-66, Mr. Whitney erected a large two story log house and a Whip saw (saw mill.) That saw mill, on the north fork of Bear Creek, furnished the lumber for this house. The

house contained two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. One winter a huge snowdrift covered the house. The Whitney family remained in bed the next day until a neighbor dug them out of it. Mr. Whitney had been wondering why daylight never came.

Emma and Maria were born in this house. Maria was known as Rie.

In 1866 Mr. Whitney imported the first bull into the valley. It was a thoroughbred Durham. They continued in the dairy business until about 1890. In the latter sixties they made about 5,000 pounds of butter a year, selling it sometimes at one dollar a pound, later fifty, twenty and twenty-five cents a pound.

Mr. Whitney was the first man to raise barley in the valley. His first crop yielded eighty bushels in the acre. They sold for twenty-five cents a pound.

In 1867-68 Mr. Whitney built numerous other buildings near the point of the hill; a bunkhouse, barns and a chicken house. In 1878-79 he erected the present house. At the time of its completion, it was the first structure in the valley. This house was first a three room log house facing east. Next the Ed Pennell house which once stood in the present Morris pasture at the mouth of the Riblett Hollow, was purchased and placed endwise to the north side of the first building. Then a frame room for the kitchen was added to the north end and a wood shed was added to the kitchen. A coat of weather boarding was applied over the whole house, wainscoting was put in and a coat of plaster was applied. This house has three brick chimneys.

Later, in the early eighties, Mr. Whitney erected on the opposite side of the creek, one of the largest barns in the Valley. He added numerous sheds, thus making this barn one of the best accommodations for stock in the Valley. About this time he removed the old George Odell house, which stood at the southeast corner of section nine and at the foot of the Whitney Hill and placed it about seventy-five feet due north of the dwelling house. It was used as a dairy house.

In early days Mr. Whitney purchased a bunch of mustang mares from a party who had brought them from California. Here the bronco busting career of the riders of the valley was begun; Whitney, Joe and Jack Spray, and Henry and Will Thomson. A few of the largest mares became good work horses. They weighed from 1200 to 1500 pounds each. From the early seventies to the early nineties, these animals composed the working stock of the valley. They were the first band of horses purchased in the Valley. In those days the upper portion of the valley was used to range horses and cattle

Continued from pg 4

belonging to the citizens of the Valley.

In the next installment of the Whitney history will be the ferry boat business and bridge building.

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The Woodworth House history continued from January Wagon Tongue

Correction: The name is Woodworth not Woolworth as was inadvertently printed in January issue. The computer spell checker did not recognize Woodworth and replaced Woolworth each time it was typed. Thanks to the sharp eyes of Bobby Klatt who brought it to my attention. So much for modern technology!

We left the Clarks commenting on how little wear and tear had occurred to the inside of the house over its first years....

"We've probably put more scratches on the fir woodwork than were ever put on the house in all those years." according to Danette.

The main part of the house hadn't changed much during those 91 years, but it had been added onto. The Clark's goal was to bring the mansion back to its former glory without modernizing it too much. With the help of friends and relatives, the Clarks have done most of the work themselves.

"It means so much more when you can do it yourself," Danette says. "It was so much fun."

They re-roofed, insulated, re-sided and replaced windows—all with materials either identical to the original house or with reproductions. If the Clarks couldn't find reproductions, they made what they needed, matching things like the wood molding that couldn't be replaced.

They began working on the house weekends, nights and summers in 1977, but the major remodeling began in 1986. On Easter Sunday 1990, they moved in. For Danette, her dream had finally come true.

The 5,000 square foot house is heated by sunshine and two pot bellied stoves the Clarks found in the basement, re-nicked and converted to pellet stoves.

Plaster walls were patched and wallpapered. It took 180 rolls of wallpaper and months of looking for paper that fit the Victorian house, Danette says.

The family also built on a two story addition at the back of the house with a large sunroom and laundry room on the lower level and a huge bedroom, walk-in closet and bath upstairs. But they were careful to make addition look like it was part of the original home.

'We arranged the whole kitchen around an original cupboard and the wood cookstove.' according to 5

Danette and the microwave is in an old dumb waiter. "Gayle made all the cupboards," she says of the once fairly cupboard less kitchen. "The panels in the cupboard doors came out so they can be replaced with tin punch or stained glass." Danette has also found a tin punch cover for the dishwasher.

"It's done and we love it." she says of all of the years of hard work on her dream house. "That's been our reward."

The Clarks have a wonderful view of Ennis Lake, but ironically, Gayle says hie great-great uncle would never have built the mansion there if he'd known that just five years later, the lake would drown out most of his acreage.

The MVHA give special thanks to Danette and Gayle for preserving a piece of history and sharing the historical Woodworth house with the MVHA for their field trip series.

Treasure Home from *Bozeman Chronicle* Feb. 3, 1991 by Barb Smith *The stately Woodworth mansion has returned to former elegance*

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James W. Saunders continued from January 2017 issue.

James Saunders was the friend of Otis Whitney and the one who got caught in the gorge with him. We left off with his family and their connections and contributions to the valley.

Mr. Saunders owned a "Man Eater", a deep bay stallion which they said would rather eat a man for breakfast than the choicest of hay. In the latter eighties, Saunders, Sam Smith and George Burns imported "Nosuch" into the valley and each took turns keeping him. "Mingo and "Elton" were quite tame and gentle, but "Man-eater" was a terror.

Besides being a good blacksmith, Mr Saunders was the best cribbage player in the valley. And almost every fall Mr. Saunders had a potato digger's bee. He would have a dozen or more to help him dig his spuds. A potato war would always come about with two generals and the rest volunteers for each side. Then the Irish, known as Murphys, would fly thick and fast in the air. Theodore would drive the team and Tom Whitney would hold the plow. Sometimes it would become a real frenzy.

I said to Jim one day, "Aren't you afraid we will throw all your potatoes away?" "No" he said, "That's what I had you raise them for." If I had space and time I could write a fairly good sized book on those episodes which happened on the old Saunders' place. In the fall of 1903, Mr Saunders sold out to Lee Dillon for \$2,200. He and his family went back to the states where they came from, first going to Bryon, Ohio. There they all stayed except Jim. He went to his old home in Maine. Mr. Saunders only stayed with his sister about one year *continued pg 6*

For Your Reading Pleasure

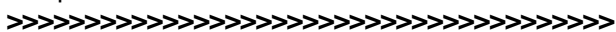
Montana 1864 Emigrants, and Gold in the Montana Territorial Year by Ken Egan, Jr. This is the history of the year that Montana became a state. Ken was our speaker at the February monthly meeting.

Looking Ahead

April 20, 2017 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank Downstairs meeting room Presentation on the McAtees and the Cameron area by John Gecho.

May 18, 2017 Annual Membership meeting pot luck and will feature Lynne Mahan speaking about her relative, Hughie Call, who wrote novels and a memoir about sheep ranching in the Madison Valley. Time and location TBA

June 22, 2017 4.00pm Program will feature the first woman elected to Congress, Montana’s own Jeannette Rankin as presented by Mary Jane Bradbury, an independent scholar and actress. Watch for location

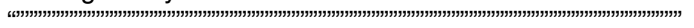


Historic Plaques for Downtown Ennis Business Buildings

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).They look forward to hearing from you!



Continued from pg 5

and then returned to Bryon, Ohio. During the winter 1904-05 Saunders and one of the boys returned to the valley and stopped at Lee Dillon’s. In the fall of 1905, Mrs. Saunders and the rest of the children returned. Mrs. Saunders bought back the old place for \$4,000. She still owns it. Jim made his home there.

Millard erected the slaughter house and ran a butcher business until 1909. He then sold out his interest to Charley. Charley ran it for a number of years. During the war, Manley Holbert ran it. Later when Peter Hadzor ran the Ennis Meat Market in Ennis, he rented and used the slaughter house. **6**

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Lee Robison
Vice-President John Gecho
Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke
Secretary: Otis Thompson
Director: Jimmy Carlson
Director: Devonna Owens
Director: Larry Love
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 10:00am, First Madison Valley Bank October to April. *The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2017. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed.

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

Madisonian Obituaries
Dan Whitney *Otis Crocker Whitney His Life and Times* 1815-1892

Barb Smith *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* Feb. 3, 1991
Treasure House

James S. Spray James W. Saunders Early Days in the Madison Valley pg 218-220

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

On Saturday, August 18, 1923, while on a visit to Virginia City with his daughter, Eunice and her husband, Mr. Saunders dropped dead on the street. He was buried in the Jeffers graveyard.

This concludes the James Saunders history

History Tidbits

When weary travelers going West reached the mountains, much to their good fortune, they were met by Jim Bridger, the renowned mountain guide. He was a real character but knew the mountains well, and drew a map on a buffalo hide, which served to direct them through the treacherous mountain passes to the beautiful Madison Valley in the Montana Territory. From Aylean (Whitney)Harris

The Whole Nine Yards American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo, he was said to have given it “the whole nine yards”.