

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 15 issue 3

Madison Valley History Association

July 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.

So much to do and so little time to do it.

Recently, a member pointed out that the Madison Valley History Association had not completed a task we had committed to do. And it is true that there are many, many things that the MVHA needs to do that take a looooooong time to get done. Although the task identified seemed small, seemingly requiring only minimal attention, it is one of many on a long list to-dos, many of them required just to make sure the Museum is open, clean, neat, organized, and solvent. As was pointed out, nobody has stepped up to get this task done and the Board is kept pretty busy just making sure the basics are in order. So it remains on the list of "Things we need to find time to do." The Board members, indeed the entire MVHA, does appreciate members and others who have ideas for making our Museum and our organization better. Whether your contribution is greeting visitors at the museum for 3 hours or helping build or paint the interior of the new building, or making signs for our displays or a combination of these tasks or others, yours is a contribution that continues to make it possible to preserve and display the history of the Madison Valley. I am sure whole Madison Valley appreciates it.

But there it is; those who step forward to put forth a bit more than others to ensure that the MVHA has a great museum. Last year a member observed that the Museum would be much improved with a flag pole for displaying the Stars and Strips and the MVHA flag. She mentioned it to a board member who brought the idea to the board which thought it would be wonderful. Then she and her husband made it happen. They found the pole, peeled and polished it, poured the concrete and installed the pole at the Museum. As a result, anyone driving down Montana 287 can see the flag whenever the Museum is open. Whether these members feel a special pride in raising the flag on that pole they installed, I could not tell you; but when I raise the flag, I have a sense of pride, because I feel this is the way our flag should be displayed. (Now if somebody will just teach us how to fold Old Glory properly. . . .)

In the last newsletter, I mentioned a few projects the MVHA would like to get done. Accomplishing them requires some time on the part of someone to work with the Board on funding and/or organizing a fundraising campaign, develop a plan, involve other MVHA members, and either complete the work or find someone who can complete it. The projects I mentioned in the last newsletter are only a few ideas. I am sure there are many more things that will improve our museum and our organization. If you think of them, we want to hear them. Hopefully the members of Madison Valley History Association can get them done, and won't have to put them on the to-do list.

AA

CAMERON In April, John Gecho presented the monthly program about the McAtee family and the town of Cameron. Cameron was named for the pioneering Cameron family. The settlement was originally known as Bear Creek. Addison Bovey Cameron and his brother, James, took up desert claims here in 1886. Add Cameron had the first post office in his home 1890-93. Later he and Josie had a store and post office on the ground floor of a building and a dance or community hall on the upper floor. At different times the post office was in the home of Frank Kirby and the Boardmans. In 1919 the Cameron store building was purchased by Frank Falbaum, who moved it 6 miles down the road to take advantage of the highway business generated by tourists traveling between Ennis and Yellowstone Park. This angered the Bear Creek settlers and for years none of them would trade at the Cameron store. Does anyone know of the original location of Cameron?

From Names on the Face of Montana by Roberta Carkeek Cheney pg 40

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

Canals, Schon (l) 406-599-5557

322 Ennis Lake Rd

Ennis, MT 59729

Patton, Gordon L. (F) 406-682-4884

1517 US Hwy 287 N

Cameron, M t 59720

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 July, August or September or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue.

Memberships are now \$10.00 for students, \$15.00 for Individual, \$20.00 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. Thank you to all renewing members who generously submitted your renewal memberships at the newly voted amount.

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

One of our newest MVHA members, **Dan Cummings** and his daughter, Corinna Christensen received prizes and a free movie for being the 20,000th ticket purchased at the Madison Theatre.

John and Toni Scully, were honored by being Grand Marshals for the recent 4th of July parade in Ennis.

Dona Lindsey, was selected as Madison Valley Manor Volunteer of the year for 2017. She has given 40 years of service to the Manor and is a driving force behind the Madison Valley Manor Auxiliary.

Lester Klatt was honored in the Madisonian **2**

Volunteer Spotlight for his work on the Madison Valley Cemetery Board for the past 18 years. He developed the map and record of all the grave sites.

Dottie Fossel was reelected to the Madison Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees. She has served as Chair of the board for many years and will continue all her work to keep our hospital running smoothly.

Lee Robison, MVHA president, organized the 50th reunion of his class, the class of 1967

Zoe Todd was honored by the Madisonian under Volunteer Spotlight. She is a founder of the MVHA with 18 years of membership and has given back to the community since 1959 in many different ways most notably starting the Meals on Wheels and helping provide the Christmas dinner at Town Hall for many years.

Memories

The *Wagon Tongue* has been getting favorable feedback on the memories and genealogical information 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 two Madison Co. books: *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 the grammar. The *Wagon Tongue* does not want anyone excluded or limited to just a few sentences because of lack of stories. MVHA wants their history to be recorded and not forgotten.

Martin (Marty) Crennen passed away at St. Peter's Hospital in Helena on March 18, 2017. He was born On April 22, 1930 in Billings, MT to Janet and Martin Crennen who lived on a homestead in Musselshell County near Roundup, MT. When Marty was 1 1/2 years of age, his family moved to Gallatin Gateway, MT where his father purchased a farm. Marty attended school in Gallatin Gateway and then after 8th grade, Marty's parents moved to Bozeman, MT so he could attend Gallatin County High School. After high school graduation in 1948, Marty and several friends enlisted in the Navy. Upon discharge from the Navy, Marty enrolled in the School of Architecture at Montana State College. He graduated from Montana State in 1957 and his class was the first to graduate in the (continued on pg 3)

(continued from pg 2)

new Brick Breeden Field House. He married Margaret Ann Olson from Ennis, MT on June 2, 1957. They began married life in Great Falls, MT where Marty worked for Knight & VanTeylingen, Architects. In 1964, the family moved to Helena where Marty joined Joe Campeau in the firm of Campeau & Crennen, A.I.A. He remained a partner for 30 years until his retirement in 1994.

Kerry Keyser passed away March 26, 2017. Kerry was born in Butte, MT on Jan. 27, 1929 to S. Emmett Keyser and Thelma Dunbar Keyser. He spent his early years in Butte attending McKinley Elementary school and graduated from Butte High School. During the summer, Kerry spent many of his high school years living with his grandparents on the Silver Sage Ranch in Three Forks that later became a part of the Herbert G. Dunbar Ranches and Development Company. That too was a family business, run with his uncle and cousins as well as immediate family. He attended Montana State College. He married Marilyn Louise Helm on August 7, 1948. They lived on the ranch during their early years until he decided he could make a better living in a big city. His family headed to Billings, MT. In 1956, he joined the Montana Highway Patrol. He was transferred to Ennis in 1966. He was elected Madison County representative in 1976 and had the distinct honor of being the first active duty highway patrolman to be elected to the Montana State Legislature. Kerry rose up through the Republican party to become Minority Whip. His wife, Marilyn passed away unexpectedly in 1981. He retired from the Patrol after a 25 year career. He served on the Ennis School Board for 10 years and was an active member of Lions Club.

Virginia (Ginny) Schabarker Segota passed away April 2, 2017. She was born April 7, 1931 in a small house on Ennis Street to Fred and Anna Schabarker. Virginia graduated as valedictorian of her class at Ennis High School in 1949. Upon graduation, Virginia moved to Helena where she worked at Fort Harrison as a typist. She married Dan Segota, who she had met and dated in high school on July 1, 1950 at the Catholic Cathedral in Helena. The couple lived in Butte for a short time before returning to Ennis where Virginia spent the rest of her life. After raising her family, Virginia went to work for the Post Office and retired after 14 years. Ginny then worked at home doing bookkeeping and billing for Dan's contracting business.

J. Hal Pasley passed away on April 8, 2017 at 106 years old. He was born in Fulton, MO on Nov 12, 1910 to S.Reid and Myrtle Draper Pasley. He

moved to the Madison County in 1913 at age 3 with his parents. They purchased a ranch from Frank Selby and raised cattle and many other types of livestock. He attended grade school in Jeffers and graduated from Ennis High school in 1928. Hal went on to graduate from Western Montana College in Dillon in 1932. He taught school for 4 years in Cardwell and Harlowton. He married Mary Frances Brown Nelson in 1937. Hal began his second career in the automobile and garage business in Ennis and owned and operated Hal's Chevrolet for 25 years. In the late forties and throughout the fifties, he and his brother, Dar, also operated the Marshall Wells Hardware store in the old Woodman Lodge Hall. Then the site became the Economy Store and presently stands empty. Due to his successful Ennis business, Cadillac asked Hal to run the dealership in Butte in about 1961. He and Mary moved to Butte and she passed away in 1974. He owned that dealership until 1975 when he retired back to Ennis. He married Lucy Kidder Hoag in 1978. Hal had many passions including gardening, fishing and making up poetry which he recited and family members wrote down his poetry and made a booklet of the poems. MVHA is privileged to own a copy and Hal's poems have been printed in the *Wagon Tongue*. Since 4th of July has recently passed, you will find "The July Fourth Parade" in this issue.

Merwyn Ralph Magee passed away April 19, 2017 at his home in Ennis, MT. He was born on May 5, 1932 to Ellison and Amelia Sievert Megee in Bozeman, MT. Merwyn lived in Bozeman until 1946 when circumstances brought him to live with his Uncle Ora and Aunt Rose Megee of the Maple Grove Ranch near McAllister, MT. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1950 and lived and worked on his uncle's ranch until 1958. Merwyn married Joanne Cox in 1956. After leaving the ranch, the family moved to Wyoming where Merwyn worked as a camp roustabout in the oilfield until 1962. They then moved to Meeker, Colo. and Merwyn resumed ranch work until 1965. From there, they moved to Kansas City, Kansas and he worked for a veterinary pharmaceutical company for several years and his marriage was dissolved in 1973. In 1975 he met Adrienne Holmes Larson and they married on Feb. 14, 1976. He worked various jobs and worked in the insulation business for 18 years. He retired in 1996 and returned to Montana with Adrienne to live in Ennis. He now needed a hobby and most of you will remember him from the soy candles (Joy of Soy) he made and sold at various events in Southwestern Montana.

(Memories continued from pg 3)

Dr. Ronald Losee (Doc) passed away on May 14, 2017. He was born on Oct. 29, 1919 in Upper Red Hook, New York on his Granddad Teatro's apple farm. After a memorable childhood, when he was 12 years old, Doc decided that he wanted to be a doctor like his Granddad, Edwin K Losee and Great Granddad, John A. Losee. He graduated from Dartmouth and got accepted to Yale Medical School. He was conscripted into the Army and graduated with my M.D. and as Captain at the end of World War II. Those were troubling times but he came West with his wife, Olive, in a surplus Army Jeep that he painted blue. Daughter, Becky, was born in Kentucky and rode in the back of the Jeep. They discovered Ennis and the Madison Valley in 1949. Ennis needed a doctor and took a chance on this new doctor. Doc started his practice and was instrumental in getting the hospital built. Son, Jonathan, was born in 1950. Doc's story will continue with an article from the *Bozeman Chronicle*.

Lloyd (Sunny) Smith Jr. passed away on June 1, 2017. He was born Dec. 16, 1942 in Lovell, WY to Lloyd Sr. and Sarah (Mize) Smith. His parents returned to the Madison Valley when Sunny was one and resided near McAllister. He attended Ennis Schools and graduated from Ennis High School in 1961. Sunny started out working construction and then went to work for the Valley Garden Ranch for 15 years. In 1971 he met Janet Rustad and they were married on July 22, 1972 and in 1978 moved to the CB Ranch South of Cameron where he worked as manager until his retirement.

Tom Morgan passed away June 12, 2017. He was born May 12, 1941 in Hollywood, CA to Neil and Maude Morgan. At the age of five, his family moved to Ennis, MT to find a drier climate. His parents built the El Western Motel on the banks of O'Dell Creek just South of Ennis. He attended Ennis Schools and graduated from Ennis High School in 1959. Tom began fishing soon after the age of seven and started guiding fishing trips when he was 15 years old. His brother, Jerry bought Woody's Fly Shop in 1959 from Elwood Combs and Tom bought the shop in 1961. He attended Montana State College and he remained faithful to his fly fishing passion. He met and married Mona King in 1968. In 1969 he moved his young family to Clarkson, WA to sell boats on the Clearwater River. In 1970, he moved his family back to Ennis to help run the motel. His passion for fly fishing lead him to move his family to San Fransisco, CA when he purchased the R. L. Winston Rod Company in 1973. In 1976 Tom decided to move the R. L. Winston Rod Company to Twin Bridges, where it remains a bedrock

of the community. In the early 1980's, Tom and Mona divorced. In 1989, Tom met Pat McPherson and they married the following summer. Pat passed away in the fall of 1991. Tom sold R. L. Winston in the summer of 1991 just as the first sign of MS started to appear. In 1993, Tom was given a third chance at love and met and married Gerri Carlson. Tom always wanted to have a small fly rod company where he could work to perfect the perfect fly rod. Gerri learned to build fly rods and together they created hand crafted fly rods for 22 years. In February 2017, he and Gerry sold Tom Morgan Rodsmiths.

Glen David Reinhardt passed away June 16, 2017 at his home in Ennis, MT. He was born on May 15, 1941 in Wabasha, MN to John and Ruth Reinhardt. Glen served in the Army and then the Reserves from October 1959 to August 1967. Glen then moved to Montana where he met and married Loine Crist in 1968 and worked at the Yellowstone Talc mine for 30 years. He and Loine bought the Dairy Queen in 1995 from Larry and Ruby Gleason and worked that business until retiring.

Christine Adele Jackson Does anyone have any information on this lady? Obituary was in the *Madisonian* on Thursday, April 6th, 2017 and mass in her honor was held Wednesday, April 5th, 2017 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. I need birthdate, death date, parent's names, and husband's name and/or maiden name. The only clues I have that she was part of part of the Madison Valley in her services and that she is buried at the Madison Valley Cemetery. Her mother's first name is Frances and quilts connected her to a Grandma Clark.

(Ediror's note) The Memories section of the Wagon Tongue is a genealogical record of folks who spent time in Ennis and the Madison Valley. When folks come looking for their roots, we at MVHA need to have basic information to start looking in the right direction. It is always a thrill when someone comes or calls asking for information and we know our work and research is paying off. If I can find special stories to go along with the genealogical information, I include that in the memories too. But stories are few and far between so not every memory is privileged to have a family story too. As I have requested many times, I need your stories to expand on these histories.+++++

History Question? The old Creamery in Ennis was located in the area east of the Riverside Motel (old Baker Motel) and to the west of Lion's Club Park. Bobby (Bates) Klatt and then the Ed Olson family (Margaret Ann (Olson) Crennen) lived there after it was a creamery. MVHA is looking for history of the creamery.

For Your Reading Pleasure

The 150 year anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meager is being celebrated this year.

Read or reread MVHA member, Gary Forney’s book *Thomas Francis Meager: Irish Rebel, American Yankee, Montana*

and *Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary who became an American Hero* by Timothy Egan

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at 10 o’clock at the Cliff Lake school house Fred King (MVHA member) will present his history lecture of the Madison Valley sponsored by Madison River Ranch. You will need to bring your camp chairs and water but there is no Port-A-Potty. Lecture lasts 1 1/2 hours. Invite your friends, neighbors and anyone interested in history.

Thursday, Aug 17, 2017 Field trip to Talc Mine. Meet at Lion’s Club Park at 9:30 am for car pooling. Bring brown bag lunch, water and good walking shoes.



Unconventional Dr. Losee *Bozeman Chronicle* Mar. 20, 2011 Jodi Hausen

Sitting at a computer in the cluttered second-floor office he calls “orthopedic jail,” Dr. Ron E. Losee plays a DVD that recounts his experience as a pioneering rural doctor and orthopedic surgeon. But while the computer may seem a technological leap for the bespectacled, bald 91-year-old, Doc Losee, as most know him, has never shied away from trying new things or speaking his mind.

And the self-narrated slide show, copied many times on a tall pile of DVDs, is evidence that, even at his age, he’s still educating people around the world.

In the late 1960s, faced with a spate of injured college athletes and others from Bozeman, Helena and Butte who complained that their knees “went out,” Losee began developing a physical test to detect a torn anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, in a patient’s knee. At the time, there were only a few orthopedic surgeons in the state and none in Bozeman or Helena.

That test, commonly referred to by orthopedists today as the pivot-shift test, is also known as the Losee maneuver, according to eorthopod.com. But Losee didn’t stop there.

He also pioneered a surgery to repair the ACL damage he detected with his new test. And although the doctor says the surgical treatment for torn ACLs has changed over the years, orthopedists around the world still seek out his knowledge and experience. Last year, in fact, he gave a talk in Bordeaux, France, he said.

His work is world renowned, but as Losee modestly pointed out, he wasn’t alone in his quest to fix bum knees.

“I was just one of the people who was having fun figuring it out,” he said. “I figured out what was going on and how to fix it. It’s wonderful to have the gift from mankind. But if not me, then someone else” would have figured it out.

Ennis medicine in the early days

Losee grew up in the Hudson River Valley about an hour north of New York City and graduated from Yale Medical School. He tried doctoring in some bigger cities, but preferred the quiet serenity of rural life.

Board of Directors

President: Lee Robison

Vice-President: John Gecho

Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke

Secretary: Otis Thompson

Director: Marty Brenneke

Director: Jimmy Carlson

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, MVHA office at museum May to September. *The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 2017. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed.

Editor: Shirley Love whitneypranch@wispwest.net

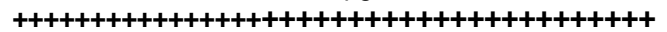
Contributing editors: *Madisonian* Obituaries

Marge Crennen Marty Crennen obituary

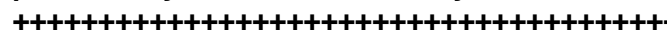
Jimmy Hayden and Otis Thompson *What Happened to the Eagle?*

Jodi Hausen *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* March 20, 2011 Ennis “Unconventional Dr. Losee”

Roberta Carkeek Cheney *Names on the Face of Montana* Cameron pg 60



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



In 1949, he agreed to move West and take a job as the only doctor to the few hundred Madison Valley residents. He still has the old blue Jeep, stored in a shed beside his driveway, that brought him, his wife Olive and their baby girl to Ennis. The Jeep is a regular feature in the annual Ennis July Fourth parade.

When he first set up shop, Losee saw patients in the downtown log cabin home on “Poop Creek” (so named the human and animal excrement it carried) where the Losees lived. Patients sometimes used the Losee’s bed, and intravenous fluids were hung from a coat rack or a nail pounded into a wall.

Losee also made house calls, delivering his first baby with the mother lying on a door across two sawhorses.

“I considered myself more of a midwife,” Losee said.

Although Losee practiced medicine for six months before receiving a state medical license, he said the people of Ennis didn’t care.

“Morality was refreshingly far more consequential than legality in that time and in that place,” he wrote in his autobiography, “Doc: Then and Now with a Montana Physician.” “From the day I saw my first patient on Dec. 10, 1949, until my license arrived in the mail in May 1950, no one, not one soul, ever asked to see my medical license, nor my medical diploma. They didn’t give a damn! They tested me in their own way.”

To be continued in the Oct, 2017 Issue