

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 16 issue 2

Madison Valley History Association

April 2018

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 As citizens of 21st century Montana, we often forget just how shallow, historically speaking, our tenure in these mountains is. We speak of our land, our home, our way of life, forgetting that this land was home to people long before our grandfathers came looking for furs and gold. We forget that these people had ways of living they too found precious, ways of living that was disrupted and eventually mostly forgotten. There are records of some of these people and their ways, but these are mostly written by strangers, some of whom were often less than sympathetic to the lives of the people they wrote about.

We have the Journal of a Trapper by Osborne Russell that deals with the early fur trappers' interaction with the Native Americans. But Russell speaks from the view of men who saw the Indians as rivals and often as opponents in a deadly killing game. What clues we gain from his Journal about the way the Indians lived is happenstance and usually related to warfare and fighting, since war is how Russell and his pals most often met the Indians.

We also have the diaries and journals of Narcissa Whitman (though this be in Oregon). Her journals, like many written by missionaries coming into a strange country, were at best disparaging, but usually downright condemning of the ways of the Cayuse and Nez Perce she lived among. Though she went among the Indians with her husband to make Christian friends of them, by the time of her killing, her mission had made them enemies. Again the clues she provides to the way of life of the Cayuse and Nez Perce she lived among is colored by her belief that her ways and the ways of her people were defined by God; hence all other ways were evil.

Fortunately, there are oral traditions passed to us through the few people who survived the depredations of the invading culture. But these are limited by their distance in time from when their grandfathers actually lived that life. These oral traditions are also somewhat colored by the tellers' century-and-a-half interaction with the European/American culture that overran their homelands.

About a mile from my home, I know of a lodge foundation (commonly called a tepee circle). It may be gone now since there is a house sitting about where I remember it was when I was a boy. Whether gone or there, like so much about those people, it is about all we have to remember them. Their stories are gone; the way they cooked their foods is mostly burned away; the rules for the games they played are forgotten. How and what they taught their children is a smattering of legend. We have little but a circle of stones; and all it tells us is that at one time in the past people camped near this stream.

This summer the MVHA is planning a field trip to the Wall Creek Game Preserve. The Wall Creek Game Preserve is land where four or five ranches used to be that has been bought by the state and set aside for wildlife. I think this field trip would be a good time to contemplate the ironies of walking land where two cultures—the Native American way of life and the late 19th Century ranch ways—have been disrupted by a different culture with new ways of thinking about land use and wildlife. I think it would also be useful to contemplate that none of these ways were/are any better than any other; but that each reflects how mankind tries to solve problems he/she finds when he/she arrives to live on this planet. Finally, I think it might also be a good time to think how the study of and recording of history helps us to carry cultures across time to enrich lives of the generations to come. Your Wagon Master, Lee Robison

Membership: No new memberships since the January 2018 issue.

Membership update 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 2018 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. 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 have generously submitted your renewal memberships. 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 The editor did not find or hear any special member news for this issue. If you know of any member receiving recognition for something or participating in a community event let the editor know.

Memorials given to MVHA for year 2017

Memorials received during 2017 were for Ann Story, Ginny Segota, Steve Huber, Becky Grauman and Glen Reinhardt. Thank you to members and family who gave memorials. The money goes toward preserving the history of the Madison Valley.

Do not forget to share with family and friends when a loved one passes that a memorial to the MVHA is a great way to remember a departed and have their memory preserved in history. Besides money memorials, another great way to preserve the memory or honor a friend, a family member or a whole family is to purchase a Walk of Names board for the walkways at the museum. As the museum complex grows, there is still room for name boards so request an application and more information at MVHA, P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729 or call Larry Love at 406-682-5780 or Otis Thompson at 406-682-7415. Memorial Day is coming soon and a Memorial board might be just what you are looking for to remember a loved one.

Memories

Bryon McAllister, long time member of the MVHA, passed away Dec. 9, 2017 in Bozeman, MT. He was born April 29, 1929 in Midvale, Utah to Donald and Julie (Roundy) McAllister and received his education starting with a BA from University of Utah in 1951, and MA (1955) and a Phd (1966) from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He retired from Montana State University in 1991 and is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics. The family has researched a connection to the McAllisters settling in the Madison Valley but have found none.

Violet Helen Gilbert Haigh passed away on Jan. 28, 2018 in Ennis, MT. She was born July 16, 1927 to Art and Henrietta Gilbert in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She earned a teaching degree from Western Michigan University. Vi worked in Yellowstone Park as a telephone operator during summer breaks from college. She loved Montana so much that she moved to Harlowton to teach. She taught at several Montana schools before coming to Three Forks, MT. There she met and married June G. Haigh. They moved to Cut Bank, MT. After raising her family and going back to school for her fifth year degree, the family moved to Ennis, where Vi was a special education teacher. She was active in the Ennis Presbyterian Church and was a Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor for over 50 years. Her husband, June, is a long time MVHA member.

Harvey Eckert, long time MVHA member, passed away on January 30, 2018 in Ennis, MT. He was born in Great Bend, Kansas to Charles Davis and Sylvia Smalley Eckert. He grew up in Larned, Kansas and graduated from Wichita University. He is an Army Veteran. After many family fishing trips to the Colorado Rockies, he moved to Colorado and then to Montana, moving to Butte where he worked for Bob Ward's, Fran Johnson's Sporting Goods and Cashell Engineers as a surveyor and draftsman. He moved to Ennis in 1986 and married Patsy O'Donnell on May 7, 1986. Harvey worked for the town of Ennis for 24 years retiring in 2011. Harvey was a multi-talented person—an illustrator, an artist and an accomplished guitar player as well as playing banjo, fiddle and dulcimer.

Henry "Hank" D. Wruck passed away Feb. 10, 2018 in Bozeman, MT. He was born on March 15, 1932 in Ennis, MT to Henry "Heinie" and Ruth (Cutler) Wruck. He began his education in a one room school near the Montana Power Company dam in the Madison County. The family moved to Norris and he attended school there.

In January of 1945, the family moved to Bozeman where Henry attended Irving school and graduated from Gallatin County High School. (Cont. on pg 3)

(Cont. from pg 2)

Henry enlisted in the U.S. Navy, after honorable discharge, he attended MSC. In 1958 he joined the Bozeman Fire Department, and retired as the Gallatin County Disaster and Emergency Service Director. He and wife, Darlene, were long time MVHA members.

Darlene F. Wruck passed away Feb. 11, 2018, one day after Henry. She was born June 7, 1939 in Belgrade, Mt. to James and Elsie (Davis) Francis. The family moved to Manhattan, MT where she attended the public school and graduated from 8th grade. She graduated from Gallatin County High School after the family moved to Bozeman. Following her marriage to Henry, she became a homemaker. After raising her family, she worked for the College of Agriculture at MSU.

Amy Wilma Orser Swoboda passed away Feb. 8, 2018 within just a few miles of where she was born. She was born on July 1, 1923 to Artie Orser, world champion bronc rider and Esther Burger Orser at her grandparents' Peaceful Heart Ranch at the base of the Pryor Mountains, 5 miles from Pryor, MT. Amy was a direct descendent of Otis Crocker Whitney, one of the original homesteaders in the Madison Valley. The Whitney homestead still stands near Whitney Point near Ennis, MT. (Editor's note Amy and her family visited the Whitney homestead a number of years ago and it was the highlight of our day to show them the homestead and share delightful Whitney stories with them.) Amy lived her life with a fierce love of Montana and pride in her pioneer background.

Amy attended her first two years of school at the Roosevelt School in Billings and after her mother's death she returned to the ranch where she was born and was raised by her grandparents, Elmer and Maria "Rye" Whitney Burger. Doing her school years she lived with an aunt and uncle while attending the upper Pryor School. Amy often shared her memories of the years spent in this small one-room school and during harsh winters she rode her horse two miles to and from school. In the fall of her eighth grade year she moved to Billings with her aunt and uncle and graduated from the first graduating class at Billings Senior High School in 1941. In February of 1944, she traveled across the United States by train and bus to marry her high school sweetheart, Rudy Joe Swoboda in New Bern, North Carolina, where Rudy was stationed at the Cherry Point Naval Station. After many travels, adventures and homes, Amy and Rudy ended up in Billings, MT. In 2005 Amy and Rudy moved into Westpark Village. Amy perfected the art of homemaking and was a recipe collector. (editor's note: Amy is the mother of

Jaye Swoboda who is a practicing doctor with the Veterans Administration in Bozeman, MT and lives in Ennis, MT.

Ruth Hepner, passed away on March 15, 2018 in Dillon, MT. She was born on August 21, 1930 in Wallace, Idaho to Harold and Margaret Hepner. She attended schools in South Dakota, North Dakota, and graduated from Libby High School in Montana. After a year of college at the University of Montana, she received a B.S. in nursing from the University of Maryland in 1962. In 1979 she returned to Montana to take care of her mother at Varney. Ruth was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers.

Doctors came to the Madison Valley From *The Madison Valley: A High Country Community* by Minnie Paugh

I left off with Dr. C.V. Lowers who started doctoring in Ennis between 1911 to 1921. Before going on with the Paugh story and Dr. McNallan, I was told about a doctor that was missed. Jack Beals called one day and told me the whole story of Dr. Thomas Joseph Fain, M.D. related to Jack on his mother's side. Dr. Fain practiced in Tennessee, but after he married Margaret Earhart, they came to Pony in 1900. In the spring of 1901, they moved to Norris as there was no doctor and there was mining and the dam on the Madison River at McAllister was being built. Dr. Fain drove many miles with a team and buggy in any kind of weather to administer to the workers at the dam and the people of the valley. Jack's mother, Ruth Fain Beals had a letter from Mrs. Bill Fletcher in which she told that Dr. Fain had gone to their home in McAllister, stayed all night, delivered the baby, Donald, and charged \$15. This was in 1906. In 1908 Dr. Fain's health failed and he was bedfast with tuberculosis. The Norris people gave him a gold headed cane with his name and date on it.(9a)

Dr. McNallan gave dedicated medical service to the valley between 1914 and 1930. He is best remembered for the untiring efforts he made to save the victims of the influenza epidemic in December of 1918. He drove from one end of the valley to the other and treated patients everywhere. He went for as much as thirty-six hours without rest other than what he could get during the drives. He hired a driver and made a bed in the back of his car where he rested and slept between cases. During these days of emergency, Mrs. Lawrence Dunn, who was a trained nurse, used her skilled strength to save the community that had to depend on the few people with medical knowledge and courage. Mrs. Dunn had a rather short career as a (continued on pg 4)

(Cont from pg 3)

nurse because she was a diabetic before modern methods of therapy were known.

Dr. McNallan was the most successful physician in the state in his treatment of the Spanish influenza. The two cases who died on the Madison, one at McAllister and the other at Cameron, were both dying when they called him. After the epidemic was over he was called upon to meet with the other physicians of the state to tell them about the treatment he had used to bring about this amazing record.(10)

It was impossible to compare the flu epidemic in the Madison Valley to that in Virginia City where ninety people were critically ill by Dec. 6, 1918. (11)

The Masonic Temple there was made into an emergency hospital and the city council set aside \$1500 to bring in doctors and nurses to take care of a community so stricken that even the doctor was down with the flu. The county officials left their offices to take care of the ill and Gov. S. W. Stewart who was a Virginia City citizen, sent his personal medical aid, Dr. E. G. Balsam, U.S.A., of Billings. Dr. Balsam served the community with all his strength until the epidemic broke.

In the Madison Valley work crews of unmarried men were the most vulnerable victims of the epidemic. In 1918 Cunningham and Biering had the largest work force in the valley where they were raising crops on the Bear Creek Bench. M.S. Cunningham asked Mrs. Bertha Miller, who was the mother of Ernest Miller who later started the Elkhart Ranch, to help him. He had already brought all the sick men to one cabin which had a large loft that had to be entered by climbing a ladder firmly attached to its wall. (12) Mrs. Miller requested an ample supply of milk and eggs. She kept all the men alive by making them stay in bed where she fed them nothing but egg-nogs. She was an ample woman who must have found it difficult to climb a ladder to tend her patients, but with a will such as hers, the men were tended.

Dr. Daniel F. Clancy started his medical practice in Montana at Alder where he was under contract to Harvard University to take care of the health of the crews who worked the enormous dredge boats that removed the last of the gold from Alder Gulch.

Dr. Clancy was a native of Boston who had earned his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He graduated with letters shortly before coming West to begin practicing. He picked Montana because he had shared a room with a student from Helena who talked about his home state. He arrived in Alder during the winter of 1907 to 1908 and soon met Edna Kiser (13) who

was working there as a trained nurse. "Tot" as her friends called her, had been trained at Long Island College Hospital nursing school with a medical school connection. She attended classes there with medical students She had also graduated in 1907.

She came from a family of Montana pioneers who had homesteaded on the east side of the Madison River. Her father, Ambrose B. Kiser, had been owner and editor of the Madisonian, the county newspaper. Edna was born in Virginia City in 1888. She had attended high school in Virginia City. She had gone on to Bozeman College, then to Pratt Institute before attending nursing school.

Dr. Clancy took private cases and needed to travel out to the ranches to take care of his patients and he found that Tot could help him make his home calls as well as assist as his nurse. She had grown up around horses and could handle a driving team as well as most men, although she was very small and slim. The doctor never felt confident with a spirited driving team and spirited ones were needed to keep in touch with a practice that extended from Lyon at the south end of the valley to Norris. Tot and Dan Clancy were married in 1909.

The Clancys made their home in Virginia City and the doctor commuted to Alder and Ruby to take care of the men who worked on the dredges. His horses were cared for by Johnson at the livery stable and he took good care of the doctor's outfit. The medical equipment needed for diagnosis was simple and drugs were not used as they are in 1970 so the doctor managed very well with what he carried in his medical bag. Tot needed to carry sterile sheets, sterile gowns and gauze. She also liked to have extra bedding to use if the home was not clean. Most cases were obstetrical. The doctor and his nurse were more dependent on their common sense and their ability to inspire confidence in their patient than as a modern medical team.

The doctor's surgical practice was not so complicated then since the usual operations were connected with childbirth, dramatic fractures, and wire cuts. Appendectomy were only performed in dire emergencies. Cars were not capable of modern speeds so accidents were rarely as bloody as those today. Injuries from horses and agricultural equipment were rarely complicated but some cases were referred to hospitals after emergency treatment.

When Dr. Clancy started his practice, telephone calls for medical help were impossible. An exhausted relative would rush into the office and would want the doctor to return *(continued pg 5)*

For Your Reading Pleasure

As you are reading about *Doctors Came to the Madison Valley*, plan to pick up a copy of *Doc*. by Dr. Ron Losse and reread or read his account of doctoring in the Madison Valley

Looking Ahead

Sat., May 19, 2018 MVHA annual meeting. Pot luck at Trinity Church in Jeffers at 4:00pm. Election of new board members , approve budget and Summer museum plans

June, July and August are still in planning stages

From Gary Forney: The Virginia City Preservation Alliance and the Elling House Arts & Humanities Center will again be co-sponsoring a summer series of programs to be held in the Linderman Cabin. The theme of the 2018 series will be "Montana's Millionaires" and will profile the lives (sometimes admirable, sometimes not) of some former residents of the Alder Gulch who made it good..really good! This years schedule will be:

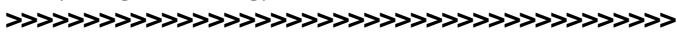
June 21st at 6:30pm Henry Elling (Amy Grice)

July 19th at 6:00pm Andrew Jackson Davis (Jim Jarvis)

August 16th at 6:30pm William Andrews Clark (Gary Forney)

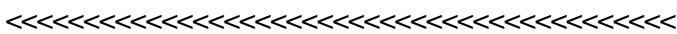
Sept. 9th William Boyce Thompson (Christina Koch)

The beautifully restored Linderman Cabin is located at the historic Robber's Roost inn, approximately 4 miles east of Sheridan on Hwy 287. There is no charge to attend these programs. Please visit the Elling House web site (ellinghouse.org) for more information.



MVHA Programs

All programs of the MVHA are recorded and transferred to DVD. If you are interested in any specific program, send your request of specific program or programs and payment of \$5.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling for each DVD ordered to MVHA P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729



Development of Ennis Schools (Cont from pg 5)

became the wife of S. R. Buford, a merchant in Virginia City. The next year Miss Florence E. Switzer taught the school. She later married M.D. Jeffers.

In 1875 a wooden bridge was built across the river.

In 1876 a fairly large school house was built in the Jeffers area and the children from the west side of the river attended there. They continued to do so until 1902 when the Ennis School District No. 52 was established.

The first school term of District 52 was held in a partitioned off part of the Woodman(A.O.U.W) dance hall. The first teacher was Miss Flora Duncan of Sheridan. The second was Miss Kate Sullivan of Butte who married Bert Mitchell of Jeffers, and the third and last teacher was Miss Mattie Jane Ashworth who later became Mrs. Wade H. Lester.

In 1906 school was held in a Northway building on the hill east of Ennis and the teacher was Marie Murphy. The following year a new school house

MVHA 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 10:00 am, at the MVHA Museum office April to Aug. *The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2018. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed. Editor needs your history stories!

Editor: Shirley Love whitneypranch@wispwest.net

Contributing editors:

Madisonian Obituaries,

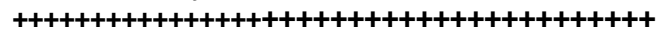
Minnie Paugh *The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community* "Doctors came to the Madison Valley"

Pioneer Trails and Trials "Development of Ennis Schools"

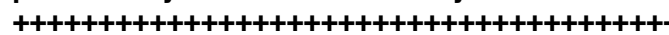
Jennings Piper pg 915-916

History Tidbit *Pioneer Trail and Trails* "First Meadow Creek School House" pg 916 Doris Wilson

History Tidbit *Words and phrases BUYING THE FARM* Kevin and Marty Brenneke

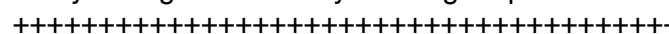


Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank



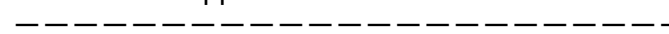
was built on land donated by Mrs. William Ennis on the county road about a quarter mile north of Ennis. Alice Kilner was the first teacher. The building served as a school house until 1915 when a larger building was erected out of cement blocks on the hill at the west end of main street.

In 1920 a movement was on to consolidate the Ennis and Jeffers schools so as to provide a good four year high school . by Jennings Piper



History Tidbits

The original Meadow Creek Schoolhouse burned in 1881 and school was held in what is now the old hall with lora Richter Vincent as teacher. In 1901 the people of the district built a new brick-face building, raising all the money to build it by giving parties, dances and suppers. Doris Wilson



BUYING THE FARM This is synonymous with dying. During WWI soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died, you "bought the farm".