

Membership: New members since April 2018.

Brandi & Eric Palmerton (F)

Ennis, Mt 59729

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 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 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

Polly Todd celebrated her 90th birthday on May 5th, 2018 with a big party in Sheridan, MT.

Patsy Eckert was the volunteer honored in the volunteer spotlight of the *Madisonian* for May 10th, 2018. Patsy gives back to her community through her art.

Vickey Gordon was honored as the Grand Marshall of the recent 4th of July parade. Her accomplishments for our community are very many and very admirable.

Lynn and Devonna Owens and family were honored for their conservation work and community engagement across more than half a century of ranching and farming on North Meadow Creek area. The story of their award appeared in the July 21st issue of the *Madisonian*.

Memorials Correction: Steve Hubner instead of Huber.

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 **2**

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. Summer and fall are great times to have a Walk of Names board prepared and mounted on the walkway.

MVHA is a 501(c)3 non profit so all donations are tax deductible.

Memories

Elizabeth Marie "Lisa" Hill passed away on April 1, 2018 in Bozeman, MT. She was born November 22, 1971 to Deneice Keller and Cecil Hill. She grew up in Ennis and Frenchtown.

Barbie Harmon Durham passed away April 16, 2018 in the Madison Valley. Barbie was born May 24, 1960 to Bobbi and Orin Harman in Arco, Idaho. She spent her young years in southern Idaho and graduated from Bonneville High School in 1978. She moved to the Madison Valley in 1988 when she married Todd Durham of Cameron. Mona Durham, long time MVHA member, is Barbie's mother-in-law. Barbie enjoyed working and was an extremely active community member. She was a grant writer and served on many boards and was appointed by both Governor Schweitzer and Governor Bullock to the Montana Heritage Commission. She will be remembered in Virginia City for her work for the new Visitors Center. Barbie helped MVHA in our beginning stages of writing grants.

Karen D. Claassen passed away on May 6, 2018 at the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis, MT. She was born in Fullerton, Calif. on Jan 3, 1949 to Kenneth and Beverly Claassen. Her dad was a career Air Force officer so her education was gained in California, over seas in France, Missouri and Colorado. She graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. She was not able to pursue her career of social work because she was diagnosed with M.S. She was cared for at home. After her father passed away, Bev moved with Karen and her elderly mother, Esther Zabel, who also lived with them, to Ennis to be near her brother, Larry Zabel, renowned Western artist. Karen and her grandmother, Esther, became residents of the Madison Valley Manor and were together there for a couple years. With her talents of writing, Karen wrote monthly articles for the *Madisonian*. Karen was known for her wonderful smile and for her love of trying to do the many activities at the Manor. She loved to go fishing at Lion's Club Park.

Shanna Robison passed away May 22, 2018. She was born in Sheridan, MT on March 7, 1978 to Vern Robison of McAllister and Yvonne (cont on pg 3)

(Cont from pg 2) Conko of St. Ignatius. She spent her early life in the Madison Valley moving cattle on the Robison ranch with her horse Sky and participating in the Ennis Rodeo. When her mother moved to St. Ignatius, her interests turned to pow wows and she learned to do Indian dances. She was talented in sports and played basketball for Northern Idaho College in Coeur D' Alene, Idaho.

Faye June Oetter Watkins passed away on June 8, 2018. She was born on June 22, 1929 in Joliet, Illinois to Conrad and Pearl Oetter. Faye graduated from Joliet Township High School and then earned a Bachelor's degree in Voice from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, Illinois. On her way home one night during a snow storm, while waiting for her father to come and get her, she met another stranded traveler. He was traveling from Detroit, Michigan with his first new car. He beguiled her with the description of his ranch in Ennis. His name was Jack Watkins. Later they became husband and wife. Jack M. Watkins was a descendent of a long time Madison Valley family starting with George Spencer Watkins who ended up in Virginia City, Montana Territory on June 2, 1864. He did not like gold mining so came to Ennis and found land covered with wild hay. He cut this hay with a scythe and raked it by hand and hauled it to Virginia City selling it for \$40 to \$50 a ton. He was hauling the hay at the same time that William Ennis started his freighting business to Virginia City. George Spencer married Frances C. Lee Fort of Willow Creek, MT in 1879. They had four children Mary Irene, Andrew Jackson (Jack) John Spencer and Catherine. Andrew Jackson (Jack) married Ethel May McCormick. To this union were Joanne, Janice, and Jack M. who married Faye Oetter. The young couple moved around as Jack explored career opportunities but he was asked to return to the ranch to help his family's business. Thus Faye became a rancher's wife with all the various duties. Faye was also involved in many community activities. One of them included singing and while going through Faye's treasures, niece, Cindy Lou, found and donated to the MVHA a copy of the Blue Book of Favorite Songs, property of the Ennis Singing Club dated March 1938. You may see a copy of this book displayed on the piano at the museum as soon as it is cataloged and displayed. Information on Watkins family: *Pioneer Trails and Trials* George S. Watkins, and *George S. Watkins Family* by Cathrine Watkins Carrau pg. 197-198

Remember: If you have family stories about any of our deceased folks, please submit to the *Wagon* 3

Tongue. It is never too late to submit a story. Any piece of history is important. to the Madison Valley.

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

Continued from April 2018. The story continues with Dr. Farnsworth...

He remembered the occasion when he received a rushed call to North Meadow Creek. He had only the equipment in his medical bag, because he had no knowledge of the type of emergency he would be handling and he had to walk a quarter of a mile through deep snow. He found his patient had miscarried and would bleed to death if he waited for help or tried to get her out. He did a bare handed curettage and she had no problem with infection.

Dr. Farnsworth preferred to perform his surgeries in Butte at the Murray Hospital. He remembers getting his car high centered in the deep snow of the old highway across the Norris Hills. The highway he followed from Virginia City to Ennis was even worse during some winters. Paris was the halfway point and sometimes a welcome sight. There was a toilet near a cool spring of water where drivers used to cool their horses or their automobile motor with its boiling radiator. A county commissioner names Paris had this facility built at a wide bend in this mountain road.

Dr. Farnsworth's memories of his practice in Ennis are varied. There was a polio epidemic soon after he came to the community. People wanted him to close the schools but didn't want to give up community gatherings. He treated his three patients and left the quarantine alone. He enjoyed buying eggs from Harrison Comely's mother whose ranch house was beside the road as he started back to Virginia City. She loaded his car with vegetables worth twice as much as his eggs. He laughs ruefully about two elderly ladies, sisters, who approached him about the rebates Hiny Rakeman, the druggist, gave him when he prescribed drugs. It was hard to explain to them that Hiny's business and his had no connection and he made no profit from the drugs he prescribed.

A health problem caused the doctor to return to medical school where he specialized in problems of the eye, ear and throat. He could no longer continue the exposure and risks that were a part of his rural general practice. His medical practice followed him to Bozeman where he has practiced since 1948.

Between 1940 and 1942 Dr. Willard Thierfelder practiced Osteopathy in Ennis. He had started a medical degree at Temple University in Philadelphia and in 1947 he returned there to complete it. While he was in Ennis his office was in the (cont pg 4)

For Your Reading Pleasure

Please turn in any good book titles you have read lately that would be of interest to our MVHA Members.

Looking Ahead

Sat., August 4, 2018 Field Trip to Wall Creek Meet 9:00 am Lion’s Club park

September date and program to be announced

October & November MVHA working on program suggestions from June meeting or any idea you might be able to present.

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! The continuation of this year’s schedule will be:

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

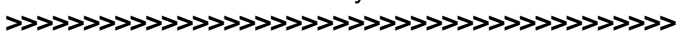
Sept. 9th William Boyce Thompson (Christina Koch)

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.

From Otis Thompson and Roger Stommel:

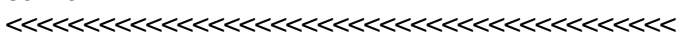
Cliff Lake School House Summer Speaker Series

One program left: August 23 7:00-8:00 pm Cliff Lake School House: “Big Horn Sheep.” Join Julie Cunningham MT FW&P wildlife biologist and MSU Prof. Bob Garrott as they share their knowledge and passion of Big Horn Sheep and what is being done with re-location efforts within the local Madison Valley herd.



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



(cont. from pg. 3) Bauer Building. In 1974 he has his own Clinic in Forest Grove, Oregon. (16)

A Dr. McLean came to Ennis in 1943 and left because he found a better practice in his home area. Dr. Van Veen came as a result of the work of a Commercial Clubs committee's search for a doctor. He left because he was called back to the Army Reserve in 1948. There was a Dr. Robert Coles who had a practice for a short time but no one seems to remember him.

Dr. Ron Losee arrived in Ennis in 1949 driving an Army jeep. He was accompanied by his wife, Olive and their daughter, Rebecca. He was a native of Red Hook, New York. He took his undergraduate college degree at Dartmouth and his medical school degree at Yale. **4**

MVHA Board of Directors

- President: Larry Love
- Vice-President: Brandi Palmerton
- Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke
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- Director: Eric Palmerton
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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. Please call Larry Love 682-5780 for date of board meetings. *The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be October 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”

Catherine Watkins Carrau *Pioneer Trails and Trials* “George S. Watkins and George S. Watkins” P. 197-198

Mrs. Henry Adkins *Pioneer Trails and Trials* Pg 904

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He did his residency at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.(17)

Dr. Losee’s first home and office in Ennis was a log cabin he rented from Mrs. Fay Jeffers, the daughter of the founder of the town. His office furniture at first was an army cot, a card table and the contents of what he called his “cutting kit” (suture equipment.) He was the general practitioner in the Madison Valley from 1949 until 1957 when he returned to Royal Victoria Hospital to specialize in bone surgery and his wife to complete her nursing degree.

During the preceding eight years the Madison Valley Hospital had been built and Dr. Losee had to cope with surgical problems caused by automobile accidents on Highway 287 to West Yellowstone, farm accidents involving machinery, and recreational accidents due to skiing and hunting. It was possible to fly critical cases to the hospital in Great Falls using the airport at Crooker’s Sportsman’s Lodge, but time was an important factor. Dr. Losee knew his hospital needed modern equipment and a doctor trained to handle orthopedic surgery.

To be continued in October with Dr. Losee back in Ennis for the 1959 earthquake.

16. Storey, Mrs. Randall. Interview April 1974

17. Kuglin, John. Orthopedic Surgeon Seeks to Eliminate Pain, Help Patient to Walk. *Great Falls Tribune July 20, 1969 Montana Parade* p. 2

If you have missed any of the previous parts of any *Wagon Tongue* articles, you may find them on the website listed on the top of page 1.