

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 17 issue 4

Madison Valley History Association

Oct 2019

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 The MVHA Museum completed another successful season. We had over 400 people from all over the world go through our museum. They all think that our museum is great and very unique. We can all be very proud of our museum.

A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who help host the museum. And a great big thank you to Mona Durham for keeping us on schedule. Everyone should be thinking about hosting at the museum for 2020. (See Volunteers on pg 6 with the suggestion from Mona)

Liz McCambridge has been working with the history teacher, Mr. Cavan, to get students interested in working at the museum next summer and earning community service credits. Liz arranged a tour this fall to acquaint students with the museum. In the spring, MVHA will be having a museum training workshop for interested students and any MVHA members who would like to attend.

Before the school was out Otis and I hosted JennyB's 4th graders. During the summer Otis and I also hosted the Good Times Camp from Ennis. All the youngsters love the museum and go home with a good history of our valley. Lee Robison hosted a private school from Manhattan this fall so they came a ways to learn the history.

Our last field trip in August for the 60th Anniversary of the Madison Canyon earth quake was well attended with 35+ folks attending. Many good comments were received and the newest video of the 1959 earth quake was well received. If you did not get to attend, it is well worth your time to stop by the visitor center to view it.

We still need your help in getting programs for monthly meeting. If you have a suggestion, let any board member know. If you have a family history you would like to share, just let us know. We do not have a program for November yet and still time to plan for one. The December meeting will be our annual Christmas program and potluck with details to be announced.

The MVHA Board wishes you a great fall, Thanksgiving and Holiday season. See you soon around the history corner.

Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

#####

Early Cattle Industry It is not a very well known fact that the cattle industry in Montana started in Madison County. A man named John Grant had a trading post where the Ruby River empties into the Beaverhead River. He traded with the Indians, many of whom lived in the Ruby Valley, more or less peacefully during the winter. The Flathead tribes, the Bannocks, and the Shoshones, who were normally at odds, tolerated each other in the valley. There were several other traders who lived in this area with trading posts or wigwams during the winters, and they were joined by Granville Stuart and his brother, James, when they came to Montana. Jim Dempsey was among the traders there.

The Stuart boys were unable to purchase some cattle from Grant and when forced to leave the area by the hostile and obnoxious attitude of the Bannock Indians under their six foot five inch chief named "The Rouge" by the whites, took the cattle with them to their new home on the Clark Fork below Deer Lodge. It was from this location that Stuart was given credit for the first development of gold in Montana at Gold Creek. In the spring his cows brought in 34 head of Durham calves. Stuart has been given credit for being the father of the cattle industry in Montana.*

(Reference: *Granville Stuart Journals and Reminiscences)

By John C. Seidensticker, M.D.

Pioneer Trails and Trials pg 789

+++++

TALK LIKE A MONTANAN The WPA glossary of Montana terms reflected the state's mining and agricultural heritage. Among the terms are: **Bench:** Plain rising above the lowland. **Between hay and grass:** In difficult times, as in the early spring when hay is gone and grass has not come up. **Biddy:** Aged, toothless ewe. **Boot hill:** Cemetery where pioneers who "died with their boots on" are buried. To be continued in next issue.

Membership: New members since July 2019. MVHA thanks the following for joining and for their support.

Randy and Sandy Marr (F) 842-7411

P.O. Box 214
Alder, Mt 59710

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 2019 membership is due during October, November or December or if you are past due, you will find a membership renewal form included with this issue. Memberships are 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 and membership 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.

Receiving your Wagon Tongue Several years ago the MVHA started using non-profit organization postage stamps. The MVHA saves a considerable amount of money since we mail out most of the quarterly newsletter, **The Wagon Tongue**. MVHA did not know that non-profit stamps are not forwarded and if you have a forwarding address during the winter months or any other time, your Wagon Tongue is dumped in the trash. It is not returned to sender so MVHA does not know who you are. Please let the MVHA know by phone to Shirley Love 406-682-5780 or by email to whitneypranch@wispswest.net or even to MVHA P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt 59729 and the address labels will be updated. Also let MVHA know the approximate date you leave in the fall and the approximate date you will arrive in the spring so the correct address label will be used. Thank you to those who have already provided this information

Memories

Ed Curnow, long time MVHA member, passed away May 18, 2019. He was born in Reno, Nevada **2**

in 1937 to Erma and Dick Curnow. He graduated from Reno High School, attended University of Nevada, received a B.A. in History from Peabody College and an M.A. from the University of Montana where his research focused on the History of the Wolf. He met his wife Maureen at a ski hill near Reno, Nevada. He was a Madison River fly-fishing guide for some 34 years and owned Ed's Tackle Sho in Ennis, MT.

Christine Elenor (Hughes) Sadler of Virginia City, MT passed away July 6, 2019 in St. Paul, Minn. She was born Dec. 17, 1951 to Elenor and Edward Hughes. She was divorced from her first husband, Charles Sadler. Chris remarried and she and Scott Peterson moved to Virginia City from Minnesota in 2004 after many previous years in Virginia City. Chris was a member of Virginia City Chamber of Commerce and volunteered for numerous events in Virginia City.

Christopher John Peduzi passed away on July 11, 2019. He was burnin Phoenix, Arizona on September 27th, 1953 to Lido and Katherine Peduzi. His family moved to Sparks, Nevada in 1964 where he graduated from Sparks High school. He married Lisa Greger and Chris was an avid outdoorsman and they had a summer home at Davis Lake for many years. After he retired from consolidated Freightways in 2004, they relocated to Ennis, MT. There they built their dream cabin.

Joyce Lee (Tate) Wilbur passed away July 21, 2019. She was born on Sept. 26, 1930 to Gleason and Amy Tate in Coffee Creek, Okla. on Sept.26, 1930. at age 11, she and her family moved to Southern California. In 1948 she married her first husband, Kenny Davis. In 1949 Joyce and Kenny divorced and in 1951 she married James Kenneth Wilbur. In 1958 Joyce, Jim and son, Richard, left San Diego and moved to Ennis. In 1998 they moved to Sweet Springs, Missouri until Jim passed away in 2006. Joyce then moved back to Ennis which she always considered home.

Caryl Joan (Hassenfritz) Kensinger passed away July 27, 2019 at the Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis, MT. She was born August 31, 1933 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Arlene Lucille (Smith) and George Edward Hassenfritz. She met Bob Kensinger on a blind date and they were married on December 8, 1951. Caryl and Bob traveled to the West many times and retired in Grass Valley, California and began visiting Montana with stays every summer at the West Fork Campground and Cabins. They purchased the Elksbane Lodge on the Madison River. Ultimately they bought a home in Ennis with summers up at Elksbane and winters in town.

Memories cont. on pg 3

Gene (Hautier) Holland passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2019. She was born on February 18, 1935 in Jeffers, MT to Dora Evagene Barrier and Fred W. Hautier. She grew up in the Madison Valley graduating from Ennis High School in 1953 and moved to California where she joined the Navy. There she met and married J. B. Holland. Gene moved back to Montana, managed the Gateway Cafe, worked at Stacey's Old Faithful. One her proudest accomplishments was graduating from Montana State University in 1983 with a degree in Sociology. In 1992 she followed her sister, Mae Mac Donald to Three Forks, MT which became her permanent home.

Jeffery Lemuel "Lem" Boyd, former MVHA member, passed away August 12, 2019, in Montana. He was born in Waukegan, Illinois to Mary L. Kroll and Lemuel Boyd on August 1, 1959. He attended Zion Benton High School graduating in 1977. He earned a degree in chemistry from Southern Illinois University and a Masters degree from the College of Lake Forest. He retired April 1, 2019, from Akzo Nobel after just over 30 years with the company. Lem and his wife, Linda, purchased property in Montana 10 years ago and loved Montana.

Edmond Mitchell Bouchard passed away August 29, 2019, at Madison Valley Manor in Ennis, MT. He was born on October 27, 1922, in Ogdensburg, New York to Hector and Minnie Bouchard. He grew up and attended school in Ogdensburg prior to enlisting in the army early in WWII where he initially served under General Patton in North Africa. On August 29, 1959, Ed and Ruth Matzick were married at Williams Lake, British Columbia. After Ed's retirement from the service in 1967, Ed established a fishing guide service on the St. Lawrence River. In 1970 the couple moved to Ennis, MT, Ruth's home town. He served his community as a justice of the peace and for over 20 years as volunteer ambulance EMT.

John (Doc) Alan Dochnahl passed away August 31, 2019. He was born on June 12, 1953, in Madison, Wisconsin to Joan and William Dochnahl. He received his forestry degree from the University of Wisconsin and fled west for quiet places and fire lines and landed in Dubois, Idaho. He met Janet Bean there and on June 17, 1978, they married and moved north to Ennis, MT. After his tenure as a timber specialist, woodland sawyer and lumber yard manager he hung out his shingle for Doc's General Service and also became a community volunteer.

Bill Dringle passed away on September 9, 2019, in Ennis, MT. He was born March 2, 1938, in Bozeman, MT to George C. Dringle and Dorothy T. Noble. Bill graduated from Harrison High School in

Harrison, MT in 1955 and continued his education at Montana State College in Bozeman, MT. Bill returned to the family ranch at Cherry Creek just outside Norris, MT and married Karen Warburton on October 4, 1958. They sold the ranch in Cherry Creek and purchased a ranch north of Belgrade, MT in 1965 where he was partner with his dad and brother. In 1973 they sold the ranch and moved to Ennis, MT where they purchased the Rainbow Valley Motel. After about 7 years they sold the motel and opened Fan Mountain Real Estate. He was a 3 Rivers Telephone director, Madison County commissioner, built Fan Mountain Inn and contributed to the community by volunteering.

Lynn B. Owens, MVHA member, passed away at his ranch on September 25, 2019. He was born to Lloyd and Kate Byram Owens on January 23, 1930. Lynn's parents herded sheep for his grandfather, William Bryan in Grays Lake area of Idaho during the summers. When Lynn started school, his folks quit herding sheep and his father started buying and working on ranches. The family moved about once a year to a new place, including to Blackfoot and Salmon, Idaho and Clinton and McAllister, Montana. Lynn graduated from a one room school in Salmon, Idaho. He attended Missoula Hellgate High School for the beginning of his high school. His family bought the Barney Ranch and land from Charlie Bausch and the Schabarkers in the McAllister area on North Meadow Creek in 1946. Lynn graduated from Ennis High School in 1948. He went to Western Montana College in Dillon, MT until he was drafted into the Army. After his service, he continued his education at Montana State College graduating in 1957 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He married Devonna Smith, an MSC nursing student from Jeffers, MT in 1958. Lynn worked for Montana Power Company and for the Bureau of Land Management. He fulfilled his dream and moved back to the family ranch in 1966 and continued ranching and was active in the community until his passing.

=====
Member News: Don "Kid " Neville won a blue ribbon at the Madison County Fair for his picture frame which he made and it was framing a painting done by Donna Bernier of Cameron. Check out the article about Kid and Donna in the August 22, 2019, *Madisonian*.

Dottie Fossel was recognized for all her hard work which is all community-minded with her position on the Madison Valley Hospital Board of Directors and her work with the Jack Creek Preserve. The article appears in the September 22, 2019, issue of the *Madisonian*.

Lee Robison has published his new volume of poetry, *HAVE*. The title of this book suggests one of the strongest thematic undercurrents in this collection. In examining the growth from innocence to experience, these poems look at what possession means and suggests sometimes, that to “have” means being had, and being possessed by what we possess. Look up his new book, visit an author talk and reading, or organize a talk or reading with a group to which you belong.

~~~~~  
**History of the Ennis Rodeo Association**

Continued from July 2019 issue of the *Wagon Tongue*. We left off at Ennis Rodeo being a scheduled event on the calendar of Montana Dude ranches.

Funds for the rodeo arena were raised in 1950 and 1951 when the Madison Valley Hospital was being funded. The same people backed both projects with their money and imaginations. The Ennis Ski Club was also at the peak of its influence as a leader among Montana’s skiing clubs. An example of the Community’s go spirit was Chuck Aaberg’s gift of two buffalo in two years to be raffled for the benefit of the hospital. The animals were claimed and reraffled for the hospital fund until they had earned at least \$2000. The first buffalo was claimed by Shorty Long and was served by the Elks as a barbecue for the benefit of the hospital. The second year when Betty Shaefer of Betties Cafe got the buffalo, she gave the profit she made from her buffalo dinners to the hospital fund. Each facet of the then rapidly expanding community had its particular leaders. The boosters for the rodeo show from the list of officers of the association between 1958 and 1971 were Dan Segota, Chuck Aaberg, Larry Gleason, Parham Hacker, Pete Durham, Max Robison, Dan Leadbetter, Bob Dress, Maurice Hickey, Lloyd Wortman, Tim Merica, Dick Dunning, Neil Morgan, Ed Clark, George Boltz, Bob Goggins, W. Anderson, Virginia Holt and Sherry Merica.

The rodeo parades showed this fusion of interests. Floats were made by local businesses and dude ranches well as riding clubs. A woman usually served as chairman of the parade committee. Two early chairman were Verta Shipman and Irma Manly.

Mike Quinn has produced most of the Ennis shows. He brought proven rodeo stock rather than wild stock so there were fewer accidents. After 1958 Melvin Icenoggle served several years as arena director. Rodeo clowns after 1940 were expected to protect riders from the Brahma bulls as well as prevent dead spots in the program. Since 1962 Larry Gleason had been the rodeo clown. In 1974 the Ennis Rodeo Association left the Rodeo Cowboy Association rather than include bull riding in

their schedule. Their reasons were first, that they demanded the freedom to program their own show, but they also felt this event would force them to add a highly paid bull fighter to their expenses in order to secure the safety of their contestants.

The Ennis Rodeo Association with the association of Whitehall and Three Forks organized the Montana Rodeo Association. It was needed to protect amateur riders from the professionals who sometimes competed in the small rodeos and took all the purses. Riders in the Ennis Rodeo must carry an amateur permit and must live within a hundred miles of Ennis by a rule made by the Ennis Rodeo Association in 1961. When the Ennis rodeos were scheduled in the middle of June it always drew several professional world champions from the Rodeo Cowboy Association This association was formerly the Rodeo Cowboy Turtle Association which worked to improve the purses received by cowboys by pegging them to a percentage of the gate receipt for the show plus the money collected by the filing fees of the riders. During the Depression many purses were set at \$15, \$10, and \$5. When money became inflated the size of the purse did not increase at a fair ratio to living costs. The more recent significance of the association to the rodeo viewer is that the Montana Rodeo Association has been making the schedules in this region for the amateur shows. Leaving the association might embarrass Ennis with too many other rodeos on their July 4th date.

The Ennis Rodeo Association has the tradition of an annual party scheduled in March. All members are invited with three guests. They may bring their husband or wife and another couple as guests. The association provides the meat for the feast and the members bring other food for a smorgasbord affair. The major part of the celebration is that the crowd is provided with all the liquor they can enjoy. The event is in the Sportsmen’s Lodge and the lower level is open for dancing. The crowds fill every corner of the Lodge for the entire evening.

The party is preceded by the election of the following year’s board. The board then picks its president.

This information has been compiled by Minnie Paugh from the minutes of the Ennis Rodeo Association and interviews with Melvin Icenoggle, Charles Aaberg, Roy Daems, Ralph and Theodore Paugh, Winifred Jeffers, Roy Reed, Irma Manley and Frances Womack. From *The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community*.

For any Rodeo Cowboy or current Ennis Rodeo Association member, the MVHA would gladly welcome an update of the history of Ennis Rodeo.



