

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 18 issue 2

Madison Valley History Association

April 2020

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 In January I had written to all of you to have a great 2020. Things have changed considerably now with Covid-19. I hope all is well with you and that 2020 will still be okay.

The MVHA is kind of in a holding pattern for right now. The board is still going to meet and hold things together. We did not have an April meeting because of the shelter in place directive. We have not decided whether to have an annual meeting in May or if we will even keep the museum open this summer. We will have to wait and see what happens. So for now stay home and stay safe.

The board will discuss what to do with the items that we generally take care of at our annual meeting. We do need a couple of volunteers to step up to be board members. This is a must do item. If you have family or friends visiting when the museum is closed at any time, give me a call and we will arrange a special appointment for them to see it.

We do have a program tentatively scheduled for June 25th with Mary Jane Bradford of the Committee for the Humanities. She will be acting out and speaking on the Real Life of Calamity Jane. This program will depend on the status of the Covid-19 in Montana at that time.

Keep your histories diaries and family stories going and stay healthy and safe. Your Wagon Master, Larry Love.

After our Centennial Train program and after the Bi-Centennial Train program was cancelled due to the Covid-19, your editor has been searching for a good wagon train story and I found one entitled **Recollections** by Mrs. Granville Stuart.

My father was Champion Kinney from Des Moines, Iowa. In the fall of 1863 the Morgans and the Bozarth's living at Rapids, Iowa (they are relatives of Robert Stuart) got a letter from the Stuart Boys in Montana (James and Granville Stuart) that there was a big gold strike in Montana on Grasshopper Creek (Bannack, Montana). The letter created a big excitement in Iowa and George Williams began to get up a wagon train. The Stuart boys said not to start across the plains unless they had a strong party as the Sioux Indians were getting bad.

There were 15 wagons from near Cedar Rapids and by the time they got to Omaha where they were all to meet, there were 26 wagons, most of them two to three men to the wagon and there were several families, some with children.

My father and mother (Champion and Catherine Adella Time Nichols Kinney) were married and this was their honeymoon trip. When they arrived at Omaha, there were about 26 wagons and about twenty young fellows on horseback that had hired a four horse team and a wagon to carry their grub and belongings. Most of the outfit had been trained for the cavalry and had not been called. (More than likely they were skedadalling from the Civil War.) They were all armed with new repeating rifles and ready for any excitement that came their way. The wagon train was heavily armed and prepared to fight the Indians.

When they all assembled at Omaha, George Williams was sick but he kept on inspecting wagons, harness and horses and instructing them how to corral if attacked by Indians. George grew worse and at last called them all together and said he was too sick to take charge anymore, but for them to elect a new captain and he would turn over his maps and everything and they could make it. That night on the bank of the Missouri River, they held an election and chose Champion Kinney for their Captain. All that night he sat beside George Williams' bed in his wagon and although he was burning up with fever, Williams tried to keep his mind on the affairs of the train. He turned over everything to father, and told him to keep a sharp lookout for Indians and not to travel too fast. He gave him a letter from Mrs. Nancy Stuart addressed to her sons, James and Granville Stuart, Grasshopper Creek, Oregon (Territory), and where that was, none of them knew.

They went into Omaha and a doctor said Williams had Typhoid Fever. He gave them medicine and plenty of Quinine and the women folks done everything for him that they could. He kept telling them to stick by Kinney and not to quarrel among themselves and they could reach the promised land. Those days when Williams laid sick were trying ones and caused a gloom over the whole outfit. My mother said that father would just stand by the wagon and chew tobacco as hard as he could and then spit at a stake ten feet away and say "Drat it."

There was lots of work for him to do and all the men took council every evening. My father said that the four days before George died and was buried molded the whole outfit one man.

My father was young, only 26 years old, but he said that four days knocked all the foolishness out of him, and that his only thought was to get that outfit landed safely on to Grasshopper Creek. (Continued on pg 2 end of first column)

Membership: New members since January 2020. MVHA thanks the following for joining.

Mary Oliver (B) 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 2020 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 \$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.

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 newsletters, **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 and 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@wispwest.net or to MVHA PO Box 474, Ennis, Mt 59729 if you have a forwarding address 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.**

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Recollections (cont from pg 1) No one on this wagon train had been west of the Missouri before. They left Omaha on the 6th. day of May, 1864. They kept to the emigrant road and of course it was worn. The grass was just starting fine. **2**

They arrived in Alder Gulch on the 24th of September.

The train had several Indian scares, but only scares and no fights. The greatest trouble was to camp where there was no water or grass.

When they reached Fort Hall, they found a regular stampede of wagon trains heading to Alder Gulch, the new diggings in Montana and father's train followed the procession and went to Alder Gulch (Virginia City). He found James Stuart and delivered his mother's letter to him. It had been four months on the way but the boys thought they had made good time. My father remained in Virginia City that winter but came over to settle on the Burnt Fork in 1865. The Burnt Fork place was east of current Stevensville about 3 miles. My father was more of a farmer, freighter and cattle raiser than a miner.

Burnt Fork got its name because of a raid made by the Blackfeet Indians. The Blackfeet were always at war with the Flatheads and this time a large war party armed with Hudson Bay rifles came to the valley to clean everyone out. They attacked St. Mary's Mission and set fire to everything they could find. But the Flatheads and a few whites in the country succeeded in driving them off. The creek was ever after known as the Burnt Fork.

My mother was almost the only white woman there and father built a good log house and stable and began ranching. He brought with him about 60 head of cattle and 20 horses. He cut all the wild hay he could that first summer and the Indians and the few whites laughed at him for doing it and said "Let the horses harvest their own hay." Father had never seen anyone irrigate until he came to the Bitterroot Valley. He was surprised that his horses and cattle running all over the place were fat and did not feed them all winter.

Con Kohrs came to our ranch in 1866 and bought cattle for beef that had fattened on the native grass. He drove them up the Burnt Fork and across the mountain to the area which is now Deer Lodge. (There is a trail known as the Bitterroot Direct which starts near the mouth of Burnt Fork canyon and comes out a few miles east onto Rock Creek. The trail then turns south to a trail heading east into the Deer Lodge Valley.)

Wheat was a good price. My father raises a lot of wheat and some peas for hog feed. They did not think they could raise corn in the valley then. The wheat was taken to Fort Owen and ground into flour and my father freighted flour to Deer Lodge and Phillipsburg where James Stuart (not James B. Stuart) was building a quartz mill.

My first recollection was when the threshers came to thresh the wheat. There were (cont on pg 3)

(Cont. from pg 2) about 20 men in the crew and the machine was run by horse power. The horses going around and around in a circle and the men hauling in the grain and pitching bundles into the machine. We children would all perch on the corral fence like crows and watch the proceedings.

Neighbor women came to help mother cook. The set up a big long table clear across our big living room and mother got out her company linen table cloths washed as white as snow. We borrowed knives, forks, plates, cups and saucers. They brought in benches, chairs, home made stools, boxes and everything on the place you could sit on and pull up to the table.

We always washed and ironed all the window curtains and put them up on the windows white and crisp and nice before the threshers came. Mother scrubbed the pine floors on her hands and knees so it was white and nice to walk on with their dirty feet. There was a big, long bench on the back porch with tin washbasins and roller towels and soap where the men washed and combed their hair. Nearly every man had a comb in his shirt pocket. The men always washed as clean as they could so as to not wipe it on the clean towels.

That table certainly did look nice to those men with dishes and mashed potatoes dressed with cream and butter and platters of fried chicken, roast beef, ham, cabbage, beans, pickles, jelly, pies, cakes, cheese, hot corn bread with honey and coffee and thick cream. If mother wasn't too busy, we children had our dinner at a little table on the back porch. But if there wasn't much help, we waited until the men were through.

When the men came in, they always wiped and cleaned their feet so as to not mess the floor and would say, "My, Mrs. Kinney, you didn't have to put on them nice table cloths for us roustabouts" but they liked it and every white woman was afraid of what the threshers would say about her housekeeping and cooking. Threshing at one house lasted at least three days and every day was just like a party. When it was over at our house, mother had to go and help her neighbors to pay back for helping her. At every house it was just the same..the best of everything for the threshers.

Mother said that there were always a lot of bachelors going east after brides just after threshing. Seeing a nice comfortable home and good cooking made them want a home of their own.

When I was old enough to go to school, I was sent to the school house on Burnt Fork. I had to walk 2 miles. It was always a winter school lasting 6 months, I think. They paid the teacher twenty dollars a month. If it stormed, father bundled us up and

took us to school in a sled and came and got us in the evening. We had some terrible blizzards but rarely ever one so bad that we did not get to school somehow. To miss a day of school was a tragedy. It was so hard to keep a school going and parents were so determined that their children should have an education. When there wasn't enough money to keep the school for 6 months, the neighbors took a collection and made up the difference.

My father usually had ten cows we milked and mother made butter and cheese and father freighted, taking all we had and bought from the neighbors until he had a load. He had six good horses and two wagons he used as a trailer. Then he would start for the mining camps 200 miles away. He sold the produce for cash and that was about all the cash money we had until he sold horses and cattle. And they sold pretty cheap.

About the only amusement we had was church and school programs. We wore white dresses, spoke pieces and had ice cream and cake on the lawn.

Once in 1883, there was a circus in Missoula and everybody in the valley went to that circus. It was a regular exodus. They started the day before in buggies, spring wagons, lumber wagons and on horseback. They had all the children and we each had a dime to twenty cents to buy candy and lemonade. We camped out ten miles out of Missoula. In the morning mother got us up and put on our best white dress, stockings and shoes. The boys got into their best clothes and we all were fixed up so we wouldn't look country. I had a big white hat with cherries on it and a red sash and was prepared to take the town by storm. When we got into town we put the team in the livery barn and already the streets were crowded and people lined along the sidewalk waiting. A man came riding up Higgins Ave. warning everybody to have their horses out of the way and that the parade was coming. My brother, Joseph Kinney, had tied his horse at the hitching post on Front Street, intending to take him to the feed stable after the parade. He was half a block from where the parade would pass.

It was the greatest show we had ever seen or dreamed of. There was a calliope and camels and elephants.

Brother Joe's horse saw the elephants and smelled the camels and did not wait for anything further. He reared, broke his hitching strap and started for somewhere else. My brother found him in the Sleeping Child Hills some weeks later with his brand new saddle kicked to pieces and the remnants of the bridle around the horse's neck. The horse was so frightened he never got over it and was never any good after that.

(Cont on pg 4)

(Cont from pg 3) The circus was such an event that we did not get over it until the railroad came up the Bitterroot and that put a stop to the pioneer days. After that the Bitterroot was just like every other place but only a little better. The End

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The *Wagon Tongue* is sharing stories from **Meadow Creek History, 100 years ago and Now**

Compiled by Robert R. Hughes, February 2010. The introduction and Chapter one through Chapter three were in WT Issue 1, 2020. We left off with Alex

McAllister and his business.....

There was plenty of free range covered with grass and wild hay. In 1880, when his father, James, was in the stock business, cows and big calves sold for \$14; four year old and five year old steers sold right along for \$18-\$20. Alex shipped his cattle to eastern markets, usually Omaha and Chicago. The prices varied from 2.5 cents to 3 and 4 cents a pound. In 1906 prices began to rise and increased considerably for some time. About 1912 cattle brought five cents right on the ground. Alex cut hay on his ground from the beginning of his ownership, and also raised grain—wheat, oats and barley. His peak operations in the stock industry were in 1916 and 1917 when he had 350 head of cattle and 125 horses. At this time he began to decrease the number of his cattle because of poor range. The dry season of 1919 and the following severe winter caused a big loss to Alex and all other stockman in this vicinity. Hay was very poor and during the winter cost from \$35 to \$50 a ton. The fall of 1918 he branded 105 calves. The fall of 1919 rebranded 13 calves. During this period he also lost 50% of his horses. In the years preceding, he lost heavily to horse thieves who drove off a band at a time. His horse brand is M bar J on the right shoulder and monogram JAM , also on the right shoulder. He also had a cattle brand. All brands are registered. After the severe winter of 1919-1920, Alex soon went out of the stock business.

In Virginia City on July 4, 1885, when Alex was 17 years old, he entered a horse in the pony race, 250 yards, and came out the most successful winner. After this he had ponies in the races each year at the July 4th celebrations in Virginia City, placing entries in the 250 yards, 300 yards, and quarter mile races. As time went on he also entered horses at Dillon, Bozeman, Billings, the Madison County Fair at Twin Bridges and the state fair in Helena. He always succeeded in carrying off more than his share of the blue ribbons. About 1910 he entered four horses in a relay race in Helena and rode against the champion lady rider of the world. The relay horses were champions and Alex's 4

horses came out in third place. He owned a black quarter-miler that won races whenever and wherever he was entered. Although he was a quarter-mile horse, he was entered one time in Billings against "Colonel T" a half-mile horse belonging to an Indian and considered one of the best horses in that part of the country, but "McAllister's Black" won the race. This horse was raised at the McAllister ranch and sired by "Virtringa The Second", a Marcus Daly horse, bought from James Henderson, a horseman of the upper Madison Valley. Other stallions owned by Alex were "Harry Bluff", shipped from Missouri and bought in the Gallatin Valley; "Recall" and "Durham" were government horses. All these horses were thoroughbreds. "Mentor Mick" the stallion Alex had at present was raised in Nebraska and is also a government horse. The black horse, named Brownie, so well known throughout the state as McAllister's black, was killed by lightning on the ranch in 1921.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex McAllister were parents of twelve children, six boys and six girls. In order of their birth, they were Elise, Marguerite, Marcella, Rhea, Kenneth, Harold, Laura, Owen, Edward, James, Leonard, and Lorena. Of these at the time of Dr. Mae Pankey's research and writing, seven are living. Kenneth and Harold were twins and lived only a couple of months. Leonard and Lorena are also twins and with Edward and James, live at home with their father. Leona is at the present postmaster. Owen holds a position with the Montana Power Company and with his family lives at the Kerr dam near Polson. Marcella (Mrs. Dave Tudor) lives at Norris and Laura (Mrs. Joe Oliver) lives at Albinon, MT. The mother of this large family passed away in 1934, her death being the result of burns sustained when her clothes caught fire from a miner's candle when she was making a trip of inspection, with visitors, through a mine she owned in Virginia City. Alex McAllister retired from the stock business and closed out his mercantile business in 1930. He keeps 4 milk cows and 30 head of horses including several thoroughbreds. These are nearly all saddle horses.

Politically Alex McAllister has always been a very staunch Democrat. He is now and has always been one of the highly respected citizens of Madison County.

Dated July 20, 1940 by Dr. Mae Pankey

Source of information was Mr. Alex McAllister.

Meadow Creek History by Robert R. Hughes will continue in July 2020 with Chapter Four MINING

History Tidbit Montana is the oldest state west of the Mississippi River.

Memories of Our departed Madison Valley folks.

The MVHA aspires to have a genealogical record after the passing of all folks who were born and raised in the Madison Valley and anyone who moved here for work, owned a business, or spent considerable time here as each of these folks are part of the historical record of the Madison Valley. Please share your records, stories and other interesting information of those who have passed on to make these records as complete as possible. They will not be forgotten.

Devarold Llewellyn Smith Selkirk passed away on Nov. 14, 2018 in Clyde Park, MT. He was born in Minneapolis, MN to Harry and Thelma Smith on Feb. 2, 1931. He moved to Montana with his mother and sisters in 1940. On the first day of school, his mother sent him wearing clothes that he wore in Minneapolis going to school—short pants and very thick glasses. Some kids beat him up the first day and he never wore either to school again. He was a talented flute player and he graduated from Ennis High School in 1949. He then joined the Army paratroopers Division 101. After serving his country, he lived for many years in Detroit, Michigan where he was a machinist. He changed his name to Selkirk in 1959. He said he was tired of being called Smitty. His first wife died of congestive heart failure in the late 1970s. He then married Dyvonne who passed away from cancer in 2010. He lived in Livingston, MT for many years. Memory submitted by sister, Devonna Smith Owens.

Lura Belle Pearson Milkovich passed away on Jan. 16, 2020 in Ennis, Montana. She was born on September 16, 1927 in Butte, Montana to Charles Warner and Mary Cusick Pearson. After being raised and educated in Butte, MT, Lura married Mark Milkovich on June 19, 1948. Lura started her teaching career instructing grades 5 through 8 in one room of a 2 room school house. She did this without a college degree, a war era exigency. She obtained her college degree later at the College of Great Falls and taught 3rd grade for 10 years at Ennis grade school. She taught another year to help children with learning disabilities. In her 50's she attended college to complete instruction in calculus and for years she volunteered in Head Start to instruct needy children.

Laura also began painting at an early age and attended the Art Institute of Chicago but she was mostly self taught.

Melvyn LeRoy (Lee) Sprout passed away on Jan 21, 2020 at the Madison Valley Manor. He was born in Chicago, Ill on April 16, 1941 to George and Elaine "Gretchen" (Bovee) Sprout. The Sprouts moved to Wilsall, MT and eventually settled in 5

Ennis. Lee attended school in Ennis and graduated from Ennis High School in 1959. After graduation, he attended Western Montana College in Dillon, Mt. and Montana State College in Bozeman. After serving in the army, he ran the Enco Station in Ennis. He married Jody Wortman in 1966. In 1971, he began driving for A.M. Wells and worked there until his retirement in 2007.

Janis Lee (Clark) Albro passed away on Feb. 24, 2020 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She was born Feb. 16, 1937 at Ennis, MT to George Wilson and Grace Lucille (Althouse) Clark. She attended school in Ennis, MT and graduated from Ennis High School in 1955. She attended nursing school at the Columbus School of Nursing in Great Falls, MT. She worked as a Registered Nurse both full time and part time in hospitals, long term care facilities and in home health care throughout her life. Janis' nursing career was a proud part of her identity as a caregiver. Janis married William Albro on Sept. 3, 1960 at Laurin, MT They moved to Nebraska and she lived most of her adult life in Nebraska, Colorado and Arizona. Janis is a sister to MVHA member, Francis Young.

Dan Joe Leadbetter passed away Feb. 26, 2020. Dan was born March 4, 1934 in Fort Lupton, Colorado to Charles and Jean Leadbetter. He met Deborah Lichenberg at Colorado A&M and they were married in 1955. They moved to the Valley Garden Ranch in Ennis in 1957, raised their family and in Sept. 1999 moved to Four Corners, MT on the Gallatin River. Debby passed away Dec. 17, 2010. On Feb. 14, 2013, he married Gail Anderson from the Hayhook Ranch in the Shields Valley. Dan was a cowboy and always the cow boss. He was happiest in the saddle working cattle on the ranch or team roping in arenas around the country.

Edgar Icenoggle passed away Denver, Colo. on March 15, 2020. He was born on March 26, 1934 to Melvin and Lila (Nichols) in Twin Bridges, MT. He graduated from Ennis High School in 1952 and graduated Montana State College in 1957 with a degree in Animal Nutrition. While attending, he was part of the MSC rodeo team, competing in bulldogging and for a time led the nation in that event. After serving in the army, Edgar married Sharon Sylvis on January 14, 1961 in Bozeman, MT. Edgar was the manager of the Peavey plant in Miles City, MT. He continued to work for Peavey which was sold to ConAgra and he operated a small local feed store in Belgrade for several years before retiring. Larry Love remembers playing back yard basketball with the Icenoggle boys, Edgar, Bill, and Bruce. They lived across the street from the Loves on East Fagin Street in Ennis. *(cont. on pg 6)*

For Your Reading Pleasure “The historian will tell you what happened. The novelist will tell you what it felt like” E.L. Doctorow (1931-2015) In *Time* magazine

Your editor looked for a novel that had to do with the Madison Valley and a friend placed this novel in her hands. Madison River Country A historical fly fishing novel by Sid Eliason. It is available at Madison Valley Public Library. Check it out. Lots of name dropping of local folks and places and lots of fishing lore. A fun read.

Looking Ahead

June 25, 2020 Tentative program by Mary Jane Bradford of the Committee of the Humanities acting and speaking on The Real Life of Calamity Jane. TBA

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The board decided to print the most current treasurer’s report for your information.

MVHA Treasurer’s Report

March 31, 2020

BALANCES

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Cash | \$60.00 |
| Checking | \$308.85 |
| Savings | \$24,730.64 |

INCOME

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| DUES | \$235.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$520.00 |
| INTEREST | \$1.04 |
| TOTALS | \$756.04 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| NORTHWESTERN ENERGY | \$24.68 |
| Larry Love-Hebel DVD | \$67.00 |
| TOTALS | \$91.68 |

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Memories (continued from pg 5)

Edward Gordon Sheffield passed away April 2, 2020 at the Madison Valley Medical Center in Ennis, MT. Gordon was born in Jackson, Wyo. on October 11, 1934 to Ben and Pam Sheffield. The family later moved to the Madison Valley and bought the Windy Water Ranch. Gordon graduated from Ennis High School in 1952 and after a brief time in the Marines, he settled in the Madison Valley where he worked with his family on the Windy Water. Gordon also worked as a guide for hunting and fishing. On January 22, 1966 he married Kathy Kriewald. Most of Gordon’s career was spent as a contractor. He got his start with Ed Miller doing construction in the Gallatin and Madison Valleys. After his start, he went on his own and continued as a contractor in the Madison Valley until his retirement.

Neil Kent passed away April 23, 2020. His memory will appear in the July issue of the *Wagon Tongue*. **6**

MVHA Board of Directors

President: Larry Love
Vice-President: Brandi Palmerton
Treasurer: Kevin Brenneke
Secretary: Otis Thompson
Director: John Gecho
Director: Eric Palmerton
Director: Marty Brenneke
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. Please call Larry Love 682-5780 for date of board meeting..*The Wagon Tongue* will be published quarterly. Next issue will be July 2020. Articles of historic interest and memories of the departed are welcomed. Your editor needs your history stories!

Editor: Shirley Love whitneypranch@wispwest.net
Contributing editors:*Madisonian* Obituaries, *Meadow Creek History by Robert Hughes Recollections* by Mrs. Granville Stuart
History Tidbits pg 6 provided by Kevin Brenneke
Printing of this Newsletter was generously provided by First Madison Valley Bank

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Member News

Anita Ames celebrated her 97th birthday on April 8, 2020. Happy birthday, Anita

Patsy Ecket’s bird photos were displayed in the Community section of the March 12, 2020 *Madisonian*. The article was “Migration Food, flight, physiology and fortitude” by Keely Larson of the *Madisonian*.

Business member, **Willie’s Distillery**, is making hand sanitizer at their distillery in Ennis to help fill the need for hand sanitizer. Thank you, Willies!
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History Tidbit **PASSING THE BUCK/THE BUCK STOPS HERE** Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck Knife Company.

When playing poker, it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer, the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person did not want to deal, he would “pass the buck” to the next player. If that player accepted, the “buck stopped here.”

BARRELS OF OIL

When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons. From Kevin Brenneke