

# The Wagon Tongue

Volume 21 issue 2

Madison Valley History Association

May 2023

website: [www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org](http://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** Dear Members,

Our last program regarding William Ennis and Saint Patrick's day was a success. We had approximately 20 members and a few new faces attended. A special thank you to Zoe Todd and Liz Applegate for putting on this program. I appreciate all the support, input and suggestions. The MVHA Annual Meeting will be held in May. The Museum is still closed currently but much progress is being made and we are anticipating opening around mid June.

We are still looking for volunteers to help run the museum this summer and new members and ideas for upcoming program ideas and tours. Hope to see you all soon!! Thank You, Brandi Palmerton

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The Madison Valley A High Mountain Community by Minnie Paugh *Skiing in the Madison Valley* pg 140

As a filler for the January 2023 issue, your editor found a skiing story to accompany the Jack Creek Ski Hill by Tom Erdie. April has not brought spring to the Madison Valley yet and the folks are still skiing so skiing history will continue. (continued from pg 140)

When homesteaders came to the Missouri Flat country in 1910 as a result of a promised land survey, old timers such as Paul Schoenek and Vern Neeley made their own skis of white pine, molding the tips in a wash boiler on the stove. With these skis, they ran trap lines at least thirty five miles long and were able to stay out three days or longer. Mrs. Vern Neeley used such skis when she served her community as a midwife. When Janet McAtee interviewed her about her life on the Missouri Flats before 1914, her replies implied that she considered the ordeal of walking to a neighbor's home on skis as much as a hazard as the major problems that might be involved in delivering the new baby. She took only the most necessary trips during that part of the winter when the snow was deep on the Missouri Flats.

Organized recreational skiing was unknown to the old timers but the pictures of Thomas Brook prove that before the World War I young men came to his cabin to enjoy winter sports bringing modern looking skis, snow shoes, and toboggans. He had a homestead near the present Jack Kirby ranch on the West Fork.

In 1938 a formal club was organized by the recreational skiers and they decided to build their second tow in Jack Creek Canyon near the Diamond J Dude Ranch and additional skiers who became active members of the ski club were the Jack Rouse's, the Dallas Hayden's, the Ralph Brownell's (He was the manager of the power house at Ennis Lake), the Hoag's, the Saier's, the Hutton's, and Jeff Jeffers, Buster Saunders, Janice Watkins, Ray Kohls Jr., Ray Olson, Ann Wilsey, Merlin Stock, and Duke Gustafson.

Dorothy Thompson who later married Ed Maynard gave the project financial assistance while she was a guest at the Diamond J. Members of the club remember the informal parties in the members' homes after the skiing was over.

The Ennis Ski Club had a great deal of talent among its members. Claude Angle and Ralph Brownell working together could get the best possible performance from mechanical equipment. They kept the tows operating and set up efficient timing devices for ski meets. The Jack Creek Center was the first in the state to have a broadcasting system. This was invaluable to the efficient operation of a tournament and emergencies handled by the ski patrol. It also provided the luxury of alpine music with which to ski. They took moving pictures of the 1957 tournament on the Jack Creek Ski Run.

Julie "Duke" Gustafson was an expert skier when he joined the club and talented beginners could copy his wonderful skiing form as well as profit from his instructions. He knew skiers from the ski circuit who were willing to visit the Jack Creek Center when it was starting.

Several families who joined the club were so dedicated that their children became competitive skiers. The most outstanding were Volker and Alarich Saier, Billy and Tommy Bry, Dean Matzick, the younger brother of Ruth and Maxine, Claude and Bud Angle, Ralph Northway and George Shabarker. The cousins, Virginia, Jane and Shirley Jeffers were good competitive skiers and popular at any ski tournament. (cont pg 2)

**Membership:** New member since January 2023 edition of the Wagon Tongue. MVHA welcomes you to membership;

**Kelly Carkeek** Membership purchased by Connie Goodwin

**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 2023 membership is due during April, May, June, July, 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 your name, mailing address and type of membership on a slip of paper and mail with the membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT 59729.

Thank you to all renewing members who have generously submitted your renewal membership. 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. **MVHA did not know that mail with 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 [whitneytranch@wispwest.net](mailto:whitneytranch@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.

*(cont from pg 1)* **Skiing in the Madison Valley by Minnie Paugh**

They added sparkle both to their team and to the center where they skied.

From 1945 until 1960 the club was part of the Northern Rocky Mountain Ski Association which is a regional branch of the National Ski Association of America. Ralph Brownell of Ennis was first vice-president of the Assoc from 1945 to'46 and Eugene

Saier from 1950 to'51. In 1960 Mr. Saier was on the Constitution and by-Laws Committee and the Committee for Junior Skiing of the National Ski Association.

The Ennis Ski team attended the 1945 NRMSA tournament at Elkhorn Hot Springs near Dillon where Ennis skiers walked off with the lion's share of tournament ribbons. Duke Gustafson was first in the class A downhill and slalom and Claude Angle was second in downhill. Virginia Jeffers won the women's slalom and was second in the downhill. Volker Saier won first in the men's class B downhill and Bill Bry tied for second. (American Ski Annual, 1945-1946 Pg 223-225.)

The club hosted the 1946 NRMSA tournament and the experts reported the Jack Creek Ski center the best run yet used for a Montana meet. The run was a mile and a quarter long with a 1000 foot drop which was the best available before the Big Mountain Center was developed at Whitefish. Audrey Roth set the runs and forerun the women's course. Betty Woolsey, who was a member of the Olympic Team forerun the men's course. Eugene Saier, chairman of the race committee) was assisted by Bill Bry and Ralph Brownell. They succeeded in setting up a timing system so that race results could be reported back to the officials immediately. The banquet was served in the Masonic Hall in Jeffers and was followed by a public dance. (American Ski Annual, 1946-1947 pg 303-4.) Montana trained skiers did not show too well in this meet competing against Dr. Amos R. Little of the Search and Rescue Section of the Continental Air Forces. Duke Gustafson placed third in the men's Class A division and his wife, Shirley Jeffers Gustafson placed in the downhill and slalom. Alarich Saier and Tommy Bry were winners in the junior slalom.

In 1947 Dr. Amos R. Little and his wife competed at the Mount Belmont Highballer Trail near Marysville. Volker Saier was first in B class and Alarich Saier in C class. The first annual MRMSA Junior ski Meet was on Butte's Beef Trail where the Ennis team was successfully represented by Billy and Tommy Bry and Alarich Saier.

The Ennis Public School had accepted skiing as a major athletic sport by 1947 and students could take the ski bus for 25 cents to the Jack Creek ski Center on Wednesdays and receive free ski instruction. Ennis was the first school in the state to do this and when it was successful, the Bozeman schools adopted the plan. The Club ran the bus for about five years. Members of the club collected second hand ski equipment for the beginners. *(continued on pg 3)*

(cont from page 2) Equipment became a problem because young people did not take care of it unless they were carefully supervised. In 1954 the club authorized Claude Angle to salvage usable parts and sell anything for which he could find a market. The bus became a problem in a different way. Bus drivers were the only people paid by the ski club. Insurance was also expensive because of the amount of liability such a function required. The old bus was sold in 1960 and a newer one was rented on request.

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As the month of April comes to an end, skiing is about over and the farmers have been busy all year. The *Wagon Tongue* will continue with **Early Agriculture by Layne Carlson** which was promised but skiing stories got in the way. You will note that a lot of the story references the Ruby Valley where Layne Carlson's family resided. The Madison Valley had the same early agriculture happening at the same time but no one wrote a Madison Valley story.

Cattle were few in early days. Thousand of horses and sheep were raised. It was not uncommon for the average farmer to own twenty-five or thirty head of horses and larger operators owned hundreds. Many ranchers ran five or six bands of sheep. Approximately fourteen hundred sheep made up a summer band and a winter band contained two thousand head. Those cattle that were present were mostly of Shorthorn breeding. Some Herefords were also owned. Sheep were generally of the Columbia, Hampshire or Rambouillet breeding. The breeds of horses varied. Draft horses included the popular Percheron, Belgians, Shires and some Morgans. Grandpa referred to a category of horses he called "Knot heads". These were horses of mixed breeds and ill dispositioned in many cases. These accumulated on the open range.

Almost everyone owned hogs for family consumption. These hogs were turned loose in the grain stubbles in the fall, allowed to fatten on the shelled and uncut grain, and finally butchered and cured or sold. A beef was usually butchered at the beginning of winter and eaten during the winter months. Such meat couldn't be preserved for summer use as could pork. If a beef was to be butchered during the summer months, three or four neighbors would share the meat so consumption could win the race against spoilage. In 1916 my grandfather filed for homesteading at the land office in Twin Bridges. He homesteaded 320 acres on what is now part of the East Bench Irrigation Project, built a sod roofed log cabin and fenced his property. The local land commissioner had pocketed his filing fee and thus my grandfather's homestead was not registered with the State Land Office in Helena. Grandpa went to Helena, refiled, came home and reached

an "understanding" with the local land commissioner. Others in the valley had also been cheated, but fortune had it that the original homesteaders were able to retain their property because no one else had come along and filed on the land. Homesteading provisions included building a house and farming at least 20 acres per year for 3 years.

At the end of three years, the filer could prove up at the court house in Virginia City and the land would become deeded. Time served in the Army counted into the three years required for homesteading. Grandpa leased his homestead to a neighbor and registered for the Army on April 5, 1917. In 1919 he returned from Germany and proved up on his land.

At Montana State College, he took courses in animal husbandry, black smithing and bee culture during the other months, the family lived on a twenty acre farm at the site of the present day ranch. Grandpa was engaged in bee keeping too until the honey prices fell. The first livestock my grandfather owned was a horse given to him by his father-in-law and a cow given to him by a neighbor. The generous neighbor agreed that Grandpa could pay if the cow had a calf. He soon acquired nine milk cows and bought 10 head of poor quality Herefords for \$45.00 apiece.

Ranchers vaccinated cattle against Black Leg. Calf scours, the black death of today, was unheard of as were a myriad of other animal diseases that occur now.

In the early part of this century many of the cattle in the Whitehall, Twin Bridges and Sheridan area were taken to the Upper Ruby for summer grazing. In the 1900s there were only two range fences in the area. The public land of the Upper Ruby was open grazing for all who wished to use it. Most of the cattle in the area were contracted for the summer grazing season for \$2.00 per head to two real cowboys—the Marshall brothers. These men would conduct a drive in the spring, picking up herds as they went and take them to the upper Ruby. They tended these cattle and trailed the cattle back to the valley leaving each rancher's cattle at their respective ranch. Grandpa estimated that in those early days three times as many cattle were summered on the lush grasses of the Upper Ruby drainage as there are today. The establishing of these lands as Forest Land in 1906 brought an end to this practice.

Grandfather had no trouble obtaining credit from the local businesses and was able to carry on through times when money was scarce. In the fall, when crops and livestock were sold, the bills were paid and credit for the next year established. Grandfather obtained his initial production capital by working for wages. These amounted to about \$40.00 per month for a ranch hand. Sheep herders received \$50.00 per month.

(cont from pg 3) In relation to land and machinery costs, these wages were even better than they are today. A good sized ranch could be equipped with machinery for \$2,000.00 in the early 1900s.

Mortgages were unheard of in this country—trust was the only factor employed in lending money. Interest was in the vicinity of 6% and loans were generally of a moderately long term nature. With the introduction of the Federal Farm Loan, money could be borrowed at 4% interest.

Marketing was similar in many respects to marketing today. Sale of livestock was accomplished through contracts with an order buyer. No direct shipping was practiced. Calf prices were in the \$.04-\$.05 per pound range. Lambs sold for \$.08 per pound and hogs sold for \$.06. The stock were generally driven to the stock yards in Twin Bridges for shipment on the daily freight train. The Madison Valley went to stock yarda in Norris and shipped from train there.

While cattle prices were low in the years surrounding 1911, other prices were quite different. Barley sold for a phenomenal \$2.00 per hundred weight while hay sold for a mere \$6.00 - \$7.00 per ton. A good team of horses could find new homes for \$350.00 - \$400.00. Lumber sold for \$15.00 per thousand board feet.

Irrigation was necessary on most crops in the Twin Bridges area. Early water laws required that water rights be recorded with the land. Water was decreed at a later date and usually amounted to one miners inch per acre. In 1883 the Co-OP Ditch was constructed. This community project had a 1200 miners inch capacity. Today it has three times the original capacity. The water commissioner was responsible for measuring proper water rights into proper ditches. No ditch walkers were employed. Some water rights on my grandfather's ranch date back to 1866.

Taxes were minimal in the 1900s as income tax had not been introduced. The only taxes paid were the property tax and a road tax.

Early day dry land farming techniques were practiced to a limited degree. Grandpa, while dry farming wheat, was hailed out in 1914. His yield was still in excess of 50 bushels per acre. Dry land farmers utilized summer fallow extensively. The Graham Hoeme plow was the main implement used by dryland farmers.

Times have changed, but agriculture has kept up with the pace. When Grandpa acquired his first tractor, an International-McCormick in 1935, he undoubtedly felt he had made a great leap forward from the power lacking in the old Blue Boy steam engine.

We can admire the farmer and rancher of yester-year and what he was able to accomplish with his limited mechanization and his hard work.

By Layne Carlson From *Early Agriculture* p 787-789

## Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County 1863-1920

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### **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 peacefully during the winter. The Flathead tribes, Bannocks and 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 winter and they were joined by Granville Stuart and his brother, Jim, when they came to Montana. Jim Dempsey was among the traders there.

The Stuart boys were unable to purchase some cattle from Grant and were forced to leave the area by the hostile and obnoxious attitude of the Bannock Indians under their 6 foot 5 inch chief named "The Rouge" by the whites. They took what cattle they had 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 calved and added 34 head of Durham calves to Montana. Stuart has been given credit for being the father of the cattle industry in Montana. By John C. Seidensticker, M.D .

### **Pg 789 Pioneer Trails and Trials Madison County 1863-1920**

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**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 to make these records complete as possible. They will not be forgotten.

**Dale Duane Stratton** passed away on February 17, 2023 in Hancock, MI. He was born September 30, 1931, in Litchfield, MI. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Litchfield High School. He volunteered for the Army in 1950 and served during the Korean Conflict. He met Kathleen Jean Blount while hitch hiking home on leave from Camp Atterbury in Indiana and they were married on Oct. 25, 1951. After ending Army life in 1953, Dale attended barber school and soon was running his own barber shops for 62 years. He moved to Ennis, MT to be near his daughter, MVHA member, Renata. Shore. When they needed help at Mel's Barber Shop, he stepped up and barbered during the pandemic. (cont pg 5)

**Doris Anita (Gates) Ames** passed away on March 14, 2023 in Ennis, MT. She was born on April 8, 1923 in Stanwood, WA. to Bror and Hulda Gustafson. Her folks immigrated to America from Sweden in the early 1900's.

In 1924, the Gustafson family moved to Montana. Anita and her two brothers went to a rural school through 8th grade and Anita received her GED through the mail from the American School of Chicago.

In 1945, Anita married Henry Gates in Columbus, MT. She and her family moved to Cameron, MT in 1961. Anita loved working on the McKnight Ranch, the Carkeek Ranch and the Wellman Ranch. She always milked the milk cows providing many families with milk and cream. She also worked 20 years for Cyprus Talc Mine sorting talc and later as a janitor. In 1972 she and Henry divorced and on July 14, 1990 she married Ken Ames and lived in the Ennis area for the rest of her life. After Ken passed away, Anita joined the Senior Companion Program and for 16 years helped many seniors in the Madison Valley as she loved helping people. She also loved horseback riding, bowling, dancing, cards and games. She won the Senior Ladies Bowling State Championship in 2003 and qualified for the National Championships where she placed 6th in 2004. She was an active member of the Madison Valley History Association and was into her 23rd year. She was a faithful volunteer at the museum. She played Scrabble at the Manor until shortly before she passed.

**Delynn M. Grube** passed away on March 14, 2023, in Ennis, MT. He was born on November 11, 1937 in St. Anthony, ID to Merle and Evelyn (McKerigan) Grube. He grew up on the family ranch near Ashton, ID. While in high school, he moved to Stevensville, MT to help out at the family's dairy farm. After deciding to cut his high school career short, he enlisted in the Navy. He later joined the Idaho National Guard and served active duty in the Army before being honorably discharged. He returned to Montana and worked seasonally for several years as a corral boss, wrangler, ranch manager, hunting guide and broke horses for the Elkhorn and Nine Quarter Circle ranches in Gallatin Gateway, MT. It was there that he met and married Nancy Terwilliger. He continued to work seasonally for the Nine Quarter Circle, Bar N and Deep Well ranches with the winter months spent driving truck and working as a snowmobile guide. After his family came along he worked as a heavy equipment operator for the National Park Service in Yellowstone Park making that his career and retiring from Yellowstone National Park. In his spare time he worked as a brand inspector. In retirement, he made Ennis, MT his permanent home and eventually moved into the Madison Valley Manor.

## **A Brief History of Library Activity in Ennis, MT.** By Roberta Carkeek Cheney 1986

For some fifty years, beginning in 1914, there was library activity in Ennis with an on-again-off again history. The Womans Club has always supported a library as one of its major on-going projects.

The earliest organized library was housed upstairs above the Chowning store and first Ennis Post Office. It was run with volunteer help—the Woman's Club members taking turns keeping the library open, usually two afternoons a week. From 1950 to 1973, there was no City Library.

In 1973, the library was reorganized and Ennis Mayor Robert Storey, appointed Phyllis Ellerton, Peggy Maitin, Richard Wenger, Ron Pederson, May Magle and Margaret Daems to a Board of Directors. A solid financial base was established with assured income from the city and the Woman's Club. Space was provided, rent free, in the Bauer Apartment building just across the street from the old Methodist church. Volunteers remodeled, refurbished, and furnished the first stable library effort in Ennis.

Some three years later, the Bauer building was torn down and in 1976 the Library was moved into the Clancy house. This building has historic significance, being the oldest one in Ennis. It began as a one room log cabin moved over from Virginia City and placed first near the corner now occupied by Bettie's Cafe. William Ennis, owner, moved the cabin to its present location about 1882, added a lean-to kitchen and lived there. Later Dr. D.F. Clancy and his wife, the former "Tott" Kiser, bought the house, added some rooms, and ministered to the health needs of the area. The building was covered with lap siding and remodeled in 1930. Catherine Potter Armitage arranged for the library to occupy the Clancy home.

The Clancy Memorial Library officially opened on April 29, 1976 with Beth Pendleton as librarian. It was so named because of the cooperation and contributions of the Clancy family. The Madison Wrangler 4-H Club under the leadership of Claudia Dotson made the attractive sign board for the front yard.

In 1979, a committee was appointed to raise money to purchase the Clancy building. Again the Womans Club rallied to the cause with volunteers and substantial donations. By January 1980, enough money had been raised so the City of Ennis could buy the Clancy home to give the Library permanent quarters. The library now contains about 7,500 volumes. It is open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, 1 to 5 o'clock for a total of 12 hours. The circulation averages some 850 books a month but in 1985, 1,130 books were checked out.

## For Your Reading Pleasure

Bad Luck Way by Bryce Andrews who describes life on the remote, windswept Sun Ranch in SW Montana.

## Looking Ahead

**Sat. May 20, 2023** Annual meeting and potluck

Trinity Episcopal Church in Jeffers 12:00 noon Names A\_G Dessert, H to N side dish to go with ham, O-Z Salad. Plans are to open the museum in mid June.

**Volunteer needed** Your editor of the Wagon Tongue is having to stop her work on the Wagon Tongue due to aging printers making the job difficult. MVHA needs to find a volunteer to take over this job. This consists of writing and typing the Wagon Tongue, getting it printed at the Madison Valley Bank, stapling each newsletter, stuffing the envelopes, putting on address labels, stamps and mailing. You will be assisted in getting started. Let Shirley or any board member know of your interest.

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(cont from pg 5) **Library** Assistant librarian, Louine Abrahamson, conducts a story hour for children once a week and a summer reading program that has involved as many as 45 youngsters in the Book Worm Club. In one summer, they read Woman's 825 books.

High school students and writers use the library for research. As a member of the Broad Valley Federation with headquarters at the Bozeman Public Library, the Ennis library with the aid of a Microfiche reader can locate and use the inter-library loans to get books and information into the hands of patrons very quickly. The McNaughton Book Service Plan has been in operation since 1974. It enables the library our library to choose two new books a month. These books may be purchased at a nominal sum or returned. The plan is popular with readers as it places much new material in their hands.

Reading materials for the visually and physically handicapped persons are provided through the Montana State Library. Our library has the applications for this service and signs authorization slips which make it possible for these people to get material directly from the State library. Special large print and talking books are available. Tourists and fisherman, as well as local residents, use the library. A library is free and there are no fines. Outsiders often comment on the number and variety of books available at the Clancy Memorial Library in Ennis. Nursing Home residents check out books regularly. There are over 800 Paperbacks and a file of *Madisonians*. Wilson Clark rebuilt the stairway so the upper floor is now available as a reading room as well as shelving a collection of Romance books.

The Womans Club currently pays \$300 a month in support of the Library and makes additional donations as needed. To take a closer look at the history behind this library, we looked into the minute books of the organization. The earliest mention of library business in the Womans Club minutes, as ferreted out by Catherine Armitage, was in 1913. Rules were set up: 25 cents for a library users card: two two books only to be taken out at a time: members to take turns keeping the library open. Names of volunteers and a list of each person who bought a 25 cent card was recorded.

## MVHA Board of Directors

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Contributing editors:

*Madisonian* Obituaries

*Early Agriculture* pg 787-789 Layne E. Carlson

*Pioneer Trails and Trials*

*Early Cattle Industry* pg 789 John C. Seidensticker

*Pioneer Trails and Trials*

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

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No mention of where the library was to be located. In February 1915 after all the bills were paid, there was 4 cents left in the library fund.

In 1917 the Womans Club spent \$31.15 for books and in 1920 they spent \$20.25. However most books were donated and those were also recorded. In 1923 the Womans Club paid \$11 for a book case and in August of that year appeared the first record of paying for "tending the library" \$2.50 to Mrs. Hopkins. The library seems to have been discontinued in December 1926.

In 1939 the Club decided they could support a library if a suitable building could be found. In April the library was started and minutes record a list of people who donated books. It was to be housed in the upstairs of the Chowning store and over the post office. It was to be open one or two days a week and each member was to donate services until a librarian could be secured. In May Cleo Hutchins donated books and Mrs. Vincent was appointed librarian.

By September of 1940 the room was ready; drapes had been purchased: volunteers had cleaned, painted and built shelves. The library was officially opened on October 19 and the announcement was made that it would open every Saturday from 2 to 5 o'clock.

Books were donated by Mrs. Best and the school was asked for any surplus children's books. Mrs. Vincent said she could not serve as librarian. In 1941, Mrs. Werbien made a sign for the Library and the Womans Club allowed \$15.25 for book repair. Frances Womack was appointed to put on a play or entertainment to raise funds for the library. The Club authorized funds to pay for a subscription to the Book of the Month. The rent was \$1.50 a month and paid regularly by the Club. Mrs. Hippe gave some books. By 1941 interest in the library had waned so the Club voted to close it and give all the books to the school. In October of that year the room was used by the Red Cross.

The library reopened in 1942 with a 40 book donation from the County Library. 18 books were donated by Mrs. Bates. The school was to use the library on Fridays from 3 to 5. And look at what we have now.