

The Wagon Tongue

Volume 9 Issue 1

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
website: www.madisonvalleyhistoryassociation.org

January 2011

From the Wagon Seat: Winter is upon us in grand style. The Madison River has gorged several times and as I write this, the river is flowing across the road just east of Ennis. What a site to see.

Several items have been donated to MVHA since our October newsletter went out. Several members, along with the help of Danny Stroud and his equipment, have retrieved the threshing machine from the old Lichte place above Cherry Creek. It is now displayed on our museum property. Katherine Wonder Brooks donated some old clothes including her dad's (Denny Wonder) World War I jacket and an early Ennis High School band jacket. We have received an historic quilt from Clair Martin, several books and papers from the Smitty Overstreet estate, and Elso and Marlene Rients' daughter donated a computer to be used at the museum.

Speaking of quilts, Robert Hughes, the winner of the quilt that the MVHA raffled off in August, has graciously donated this quilt back to be displayed in the museum. This quilt will be on display when we reopen in May. We wish to thank Robert for this donation.

Our winter programs have been very successful. In October Gary Forney presented the program "People v. Thomas W. Cover" in which he played the role of Moses Veale, U. S. Attorney for the Montana Territory, as he presented evidence surrounding the death of John Bozeman in 1867. Following Moses Veale's presentation, members in attendance voted to have Thomas Cover appear before a grand jury to answer questions regarding the murder of John Bozeman (although in reality, this never happened.) In November, Dave Kelley, a local attorney, presented a program comparing East Coast legal traditions with Western legal tradition and he used local Montana stories to illustrate the similarities and differences. In December, we had our traditional pot luck holiday dinner and our program consisted of members showing old toys and telling why these toys were special to them.

MVHA is now gearing up for the William Ennis Irish Stew Dinner which will be held on Thursday, March 17 in honor of our founding father's birthday. The town of Ennis has declared this date to be William Ennis Day and all are encouraged to attend the dinner to help us celebrate.

MVHA is now the sponsor of the highway cleanup from mile marker 3 to mile marker 5 on Montana Highway 287 (the two miles of road that passes near the museum.) The paper work is being processed to give recognition to MVHA for this community service. Watch for the announcement in the April newsletter as for the cleanup schedule.

Thanks to the fund raising letter campaign of Shirley and Larry Love, MVHA is starting to receive some donations to help with the expenses of Phase Two of the Otto Coss-Oscar Angle Forge building. It appears MVHA will be able to start construction this spring/summer on this project. If we can get volunteer labor to do most of the work, we should be able to pull this off this summer. If you would like to help, keep in touch with the MVHA board members as to the work schedule. We could use your help, both monetarily and physical. Remember it takes all of our members to "keep the wagons rolling."

Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson

History Tidbit: History is anything that has occurred yesterday and back to the beginning of time. Mary Ann (Neville) Alger called and reported that antelope and Canada geese were resting very comfortably the week after New Year in the field south of Jeffers and across from her home. This is a first for the antelope as she and George have never seen them there before. Antelope have also been observed in the Luci Jones Murphy field east of Hwy 287 right off the Jeffers road. A first for many locals. Even antelope make history as they move out of Pronghorn Subdivision and Antelope Meadows!!

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the October issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping for your committee work. If you need a complete list of members, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete, updated list for you. Please send any corrections of name or address to the Wagon Tongue.

Hughes, Thomas W. (I)
395 Zimmerman Lane 406-363-2318
Hamilton, MT 59840

Leitgeb, Allen and Bonnie (F)
P.O. Box 88 803-525-1393
McAllister, MT 59740

Owens, Devonna & Lynn (F)
P.O. Box 123 682-4668
McAllister, MT 59740

Whitaker (Armitage), Kristin & Family (F)
4161 E. Grandview Circle
Mesa, AZ 8520

Correction from October 2011

and Madison Valley Manor resident, celebrated her 103 birthday on Nov. 23. See story written by Virginia Black in this issue of the W.T.

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Memories

The Wagon Tongue has been getting favorable feedback on the memories of our members and long time Madison Valley residents and natives who have passed on. Please help out by sending your stories and memories about deceased members or residents to the Wagon Tongue. Obituaries from the local newspapers will not be reprinted. We are looking for stories that will expand on the deceased lives, genealogy, and contributions, etc. to the history of the Madison Valley. The Madison County Trails and Trials and Progressive Years have helped but not everyone's family history is included there and sometime there are good stories out there that have never been printed. So help out if you have information to share. The Wagon Tongue does not want anyone excluded because of lack of new stories. Please, I need your stories. I do not have much information on some of these folks.

Gene Harold Sidener, 88, formerly of Ennis, passed away on Sept. 12, 2010 in Reno, NV. While residing in Ennis, Sidner was involved in the Madison Meadows Men's Golf Association, Madison Valley Manor and Trinity Episcopal Church.

Ruth Amelia Phinney, long time resident of Ennis, passed away Sept. 25, 2010 in Everett, WA at age of 90. She and her husband, Roy, retired near Ennis in 1979 and and enjoyed the Big Sky Country for many years. Ruth was a member of the Madison Valley Baptist Church and volunteered at the Madison Valley Manor where Roy was a resident for many years until his passing in 1996.

Alice Northway of Sheridan passed away on Oct. 4, 2010. She and her husband, Ralph Northway, ran the Alder Steak House in Alder.

Bertie Hotvedt, former Madison Valley resident, passed away Oct. 4, 2010. In 1975, Bertie and her husband, Elmer, moved to Ennis and purchased the Ennis Drug Store which they ran for many years.

Craig R. "Rusty" Hebel, rancher at Glen, MT. passed away on Oct. 23, 2010. He was born Sept. 26, 1960 to former MVHA member, Beverly Martin, and Rollie Hebel. In 1990, he married Margaret Armitage of Ennis. Rusty was a Montana cowboy rodeoing, working on ranches and raising, training and showing strawberry roan Belgians with his father, Rollie.

Local Ennis businessman, **Dan Deadman, Sr.** passed away Oct. 29, 2010. After working for awhile at Luzenac Talc mine in his younger years, Dan teamed up with his brother, Dennis, to start D and D Auto which began in a small garage in 1984. They moved to the current location in 1986 expanding their business to include Car Quest Auto Parts, Lick a Dee Lube and the Car Wash.

Membership Update 2010 memberships are now past due, Please check your address label on your issue of the Wagon Tongue and you can tell when your membership is due or if you have not purchased it yet. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it and you are not penalized for submitting early. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patrons.

The MVHA is currently doing a campaign to raise funds for the Phase II of the Museum. If you made a donation of \$500 or more, your membership status is elevated to Benefactor.

If your membership comes due before the next (April '11) Wagon Tongue, you will find a membership application enclosed. If you are inviting a new person to join or want to purchase your membership before it is due, just write out name, mailing address and type of membership and mail with membership fee to MVHA at P.O. Box 474, Ennis, MT. 59729.

The Board of Directors of your Madison Valley History Association appreciates all the memberships that are purchased as this allows them to have funds to continue the work of developing a museum in the Madison Valley:)

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Member News

Manny Hoag, MVHA member and Madison Valley native, was appointed as a new hospital board member. Congratulations to Manny.

Hal Pasley, MVHA member and long time Madison Valley resident celebrated his 100th birthday on Nov. 13, 2010. Look for Hal's poetry in this issue of the WT.

Elso and Marlene Reints celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 13, 2010.

Eula Wing, mother of MVHA member Dave Wing

Memories continued from page 2

Mary Alice Hubner Gibbs passed wy Nov. 5, 2010. She was born to Carl and Ethelyn Hubner in Brendan. In 1944 the family moved to the Hay Camp Ranch where she grew up.

Margaret (Maggie) Morgan passed away on Nov. 5, 2010. She was born at Salesville, MT which is now Gallatin Gateway. Maggie attended school at Elk Creek near the Madison River. Elk Creek later became Cherry Creek. Maggie married Harold "Jack" Cain in 1932 and they later divorced. Maggie was the second cook at the Boaz Mine near Norris in the late '30's and early 40's.

Melissa Severeid, local Ennis business woman, passed away on Nov. 20, 2010. She and her husband, Kyle, started Corral Creek Coffee Company on main street Ennis.

Madison Valley resident, **Thomas P. Hoe** passed away on Nov. 23, 2010. Tom was born Jan, 12, 1915 in Colorado Springs, CO. He got a degree in Education and after completing a career in various aspects of work ing with young people, he retired in 1977. He and his wife, Ann, moved to McAllister. For 32 years, Tom has entertained Ennis and the surrounding area with his music and poetry. He especially enjoyed playing the guitar, the harmonica and singing with the Ennis Community Choir.

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Memorials were received for the following during the year 2010

*Bud Angle
Dan Armstrong
Jack Bloxham
Debbie Leadbetter
Smitty Overstreet*

*J. R. Pasley
Glenn Restvedt
Max Robison
Ann Sheffield*

The MVHA would like to thank all of those who remembered someone with a memorial to the Museum. Please continue to remember deceased family and friends with memorials to help us continue the museum project.

MVHA Member Robert Hughes has provided the WT a electronic copy of his father's (Thomas Hughes) diary written from Oct. 31,1904 to early 1906. This diary will be reprinted in this and future issues of the WT. His diary started on Oct. 31, thus the start in the October issue of the Wagon Tongue.

DAD'S DIARY Submitted By: R R (Bob) Hughes, October, 1992

Revised, September, 2001

The last issue of the Wagon Tongue left Thomas Hughes on Nov. 3, 1904 in the upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone Park.

Nov. 4

Has been a day of bad luck. This morning while banging her old empty head around, Annie breaks my rifle all to hell. Spoils my prospects for a good hunt unless I can get another gun.

Verily, I believe a man would be justified in losing his temper at such a beast.

While crossing a small creek tonight, Nellie gets upset and to save her from drowning, Army, in trying to cut a rope off her neck, nearly cuts her head off with a butcher knife. Takes about forty stitches to close it. Find camp close to Shoshone Lake. Good feed but horses are losing every day. Fine weather, like summer, went without coat all day. Some snow on top of Continental Divide but none here.

For future benefit, will go back to Nov 1st. Saw an attorneys sign on a ranch gate. "Frank McNullet, Attorney at Law, Divorces procured on the quiet".

Nov. 5

Camped at Lewis Lake. Good camp and good feed. Fine weather continues. All I lack is a pipe and tobacco. Lost the heel of my boot the other day. Just now put on a high French heel which I found on a slipper at one of the lunch stations. Makes a good heel for a riding boot.

Nov. 6

Camped close to Snake River, good feed and fine camp. All kinds of elk signs near. Got out of Park today so intend to hunt tomorrow. Made a main spring for my gun out of a case knife and tied the stock on with buckskin. Might be more dangerous than I look. Looking like snow today.

Nov. 7

Took our hunt. Army goes one direction and I go another. He sees 150 elk and 3 grouse, kills one elk and one grouse, I see 3 grouse, no elk, get one grouse. Had elk for supper.

We are about 25 miles from Jackson Lake, so are in the famous Jackson Hole country. Nellie loose tonight and can't get her.

Weather cleared up again.

Nov 8.

Slept late this morning. Took us all day to catch Nellie, had to build a corral by falling trees, thereby breaking laws of Forest Reserve. We shall have to dodge game wardens anyway so it doesn't make any difference. Just put an extension on skillet handles. Afraid our supply of cuss words would run out.

Boiled elk heart with dumplings tonight. Bully! Looked like snow again today but is clear tonight. Army bet me a corn cob pipe and a nickels worth of tobacco that it would snow before tomorrow night.

Nov. 9

Broke camp this morning and moved to where Army killed the elk. Elk steak for supper. Saw bunch of elk today, certainly is great country for them. Signs as plentiful as cattle signs at home. Windy and disagreeable tonight, trying to scare up a storm. Won the pipe but couldn't extend time any on the bet. This book is getting all fired dirty, I notice, but can't wonder at it as the writer doesn't look like any newly plucked bunch of daisies.

Wonder who is president?

Continued on page 4

Entries of Nov. 9th, 12th and 13th all ask "who is president", indicating that a presidential election has just been held.)

Nov. 10

This has been pure hell of a day. We attempted to follow a creek from camp to Jackson Lake and have been in almost impassable country all day. Jumping horses over logs and leading them down frozen waterfalls in creek makes for slow progress. Traveled until dark, camped from necessity without much feed or water for horses. Don't know how far we have to go yet and the country looks worse than ever before us (*this part unclear*). We shall never see our happy home again.

The weather has cleared up again and couldn't be better. If it were snowing we would indeed be out of luck.

Nov. 11

Finally got out of our trap by crossing a couple of Hell holes and followed an elks trail to the lake. Bum camp. Lots of poor feed and a lake within a hundred yards but no water. The only redeeming feature is the view. We are camped at the foot of the Teton Mountains and the three Grand Tetons seem to rise straight out of the lake. It is a beautiful sight but I am too damned thirsty to enjoy it. Army and I quit swearing today, we got ashamed of ourselves.

Nov. 12

Fine camp tonight, anyway, we appreciate it after being in that modern Hell yesterday. Water has kind of yellow taste, but is wet and awfully cold. Only came about 12 miles today. Horses getting awfully tender footed and have had a hard rocky road today following a lake. Nellie seems a little sick tonight or else she is just mad. We, Army and I, were both a little discouraged today, we are afraid this fine weather will end before we can get across Teton Pass. A big snow would shut us in. Tonight after eating about 15 lb. of elk steak, things look brighter. Weather is certainly extraordinary. Hell of a game law they have here, poor devils like us have to dodge game wardens when we only killed one elk and took all of it for food, while these folks in here go out and kill enough for all winter only taking best part. There's a grand mistake someplace. Gun license for a nonresident \$50.00. Violators are rewarded by confiscating their whole outfit and 25 to 90 days imprisonment if they can't pay fine. Would look well after they got \$50.00 out of us. Don't remember of ever seeing that much, besides we expect to live on that elk for a month.

Bought sugar and coffee at a store today. Army wanted to buy me the pipe I won but thought I wouldn't commence again. Both of us swore a couple of times today but will do better tomorrow. Don't know who the president is yet!, was afraid to ask today, don't want to show our ignorance. They probably didn't know in here anyway as it's about 150 miles to railroad.

Saw a woman today. Blamed thing came tearing along on a pinto horse and actually smiled or grinned at us. Can't imagine the reason. She had spurs on bigger than mine, and a great big sombrero hat. Looked wild and wooly to me.

Nov. 13

Gee Whiz! its 1:30 P.M. (*he must mean A. M.*) and not in bed yet. Camped close to a cow punchers cabin and have been visiting with him. Traded my six-shooter to him for a 40-65 caliber rifle, and my old rifle barrel, for that's all there was left of it, for a hunting knife and a pair of elk teeth.

Asked the cow puncher who was president and he didn't know and "didn't care a damn".

Nov. 14

About halfway up Teton Pass tonight. Altitude of pass is about 8400. On a tree above my head there is the names of two young couples and a married woman who formed a park party last year from Idaho Falls. As I look at the names I can imagine tongue sucking and biting of ears (*on the*) ground among these pine needles. Gee!

The weather is still good but can't stay that way much longer. Won't quit snowing when it commences here. The people pile their wood on end against trees, etc. so they can find it in the snow.

I killed a sage hen with my new gun today. Shoots fine.

Nov. 15

Discovered this morning that I lost my cartridge belt full of shells yesterday. That means I am out of ammunition for my gun.

Crossed the pass alright but weather looks unfavorable, cloudy and disagreeable this morning. Camped tonight in Victor. Horses in a livery stable and we are sleeping in a hay loft. Trying to snow tonight. Accommodating cuss runs the barn. Feeds our horses all night for 75c. Hay is cheap here, \$3.20 a ton, good alfalfa and timothy.

Nov. 16

Weather not quite so bad this morning, seems to clear up every night and cloud over every day. Repaid our accommodating friend by beating him on a horse trade, his own fault though, he jumped me for a trade. Traded him Annie for a little spotted white mare. Has seen better days but you can actually lead her, and she has a more pleasant disposition which will be a saving of cuss words. Stiff in three legs, but I could have traded Annie for a saw horse if I had the chance. Camped tonight on a fellows ranch on Swan Valley and have horses turned loose in his pasture. Gave him a piece of elk meat about as big as your fist and, before he got over expressing his gratitude, asked him what the pasture bill would be. It would look bad to charge much with a piece of elk meat in your hand so of course he said it would be nothing. Diplomatic, eh, he'll be sorry of it before morning.

Clear again tonight and they tell us we can expect good weather until Christmas. By that time, with the good Lords help, or rather Old Red's we shall be where they have good weather all the time.

Forgot to say that this country is just full of pretty girls. Have a notion to stay here.

We found out today who was pres. Asked a store clerk who happened to be a Republican and in his enthusiasm gave Army 5c too much change "That helps some".

Thomas Hughes Diary continued in April 2011 WT.

My friend celebrates 103 years by Virginia Black

What would we do without friends?

I have been blessed in my lifetime with friends. Let me share with you my friend, Eula Wing. She is a very special lady.

We celebrated her 103rd birthday on Nov. 23. Her son, David, and Eula shared with us some "high lights" of her 103 years journey. But first, I wish to share the Eula I grew to know and love. She has a very quick mind and knows right from wrong and brave enough to tell you! She realizes that her memory sometimes takes time out. But ours also forgets. Eula takes pride in her appearance and is quick to tell you the same. She likes to be treated as a friend and will do the same for you.

Eula also needs to be treated with respect. She still has feelings and the young Eula is still inside that person you see. Remember to really listen, love, encourage, forgive and most of all she needs friends she trusts. At the age of 103, she has lots of experience and stories to share with her friends and family. So stop by and enjoy Eula. It will make your day!

Eula, the eldest of eight children, was born Nov. 23, 1907 on the family homestead at Deer Park, Wash.

Her father, Lester H. Thompson, and his bride, Bessie M. Thompson, had previously rode an immigrant train from Illinois with registered Hereford cattle and personal belongings to Washington State where he had taken out a homestead.

In 1910 Lester was looking for a better place to raise livestock and remembering the Gallatin Valley and great grass that he saw when he came through a few years earlier, he returned with his family and stock, settling on a farm where the Cashman Nursery is now. Eula started school at the Nelson District school where the Riverside Country Club is now located.

In 1915 they moved to a ranch on Bear Creek near Salesville (now Gallatin Gateway) and she continued school at the Little Bear Creek School.

They moved again to Bozeman to a ranch at the end of South Wilson Ave. where she attended the Longfellow and Emerson Schools, graduating from Gallatin High School in 1926.

In 1931 Eula graduated from Northwestern University in Illinois with a degree in Nursing. She worked as a nurse at the Bozeman Deaconess Hospital and for several doctors in Bozeman.

On February 23, 1932 she married Leonard A. Wing and they had two sons, Richard and David. She and her husband ranched near Manhattan and Toston.

Eula moved to the Madison Valley Manor in Ennis to be near her son David and his wife, Jerry.

Thank you, David, for sharing your mother.
(edited due to space limitations)

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My Hearing Aid by J. Hal Pasley

You say I need a hearing aid

I really don't know why

If you would stop your mumbling

you can if you would try.

And speak the way you used to speak
so many years ago

I'd understand each word you say

and save a lot of dough

At last I have my hearing aid

I hope you're happy dear

Just mumble to your hearts content

your voice is loud and clear

I went to see the doctor

he put them in my ear

I'm hearing sounds I haven't heard

for many, many years

The red one in my left ear

the blue one in my right

I kept them in the whole day long

then took them out that night

And then when morning rolled around
as morning always do

I thought I'd practice up a bit

and put them in a time or two

I thought I'd practice up a bit

and put them in a time or two

I knew I'd have a problem

but still I had to try

The one end went straight up my nose

the other hit my eye

But I was most persistent

it was all my fault no doubt

I finally got them in my ears

then couldn't get them out

But now my trouble is over

it's easy as can be

Then all at once they start to peep

they need a battery

They have a little on-off switch

on the part behind my ear

I turn off when someone speaks

whom I don't choose to hear

I'm really glad I got my aids

I needed them I know

The one thing that still bothers me

they cost a lot of dough.

(Editor's note: Hal has all this poetry in his head. As he recites each, a family member writes each poem down.)

For Your Reading Pleasure

Yonder a place in Montana by John Heminway The West Boulder valley lies nestled in the Montana Rockies, and when acclaimed travel writer John Heminway first laid eyes on the dilapidated Bar 20 Ranch he knew he was home. "Any sensible person would have walked away, but for me the Bar 20 was perfection"

Available at Ennis, Boulder, Clancy, Dillon, Twin Bridges and Whitehall libraries.

Looking Ahead

Feb. 17, 2011 4:00pm Monthly meeting at First Madison Valley Bank Program to be announced.

March 17, 2011 William Ennis Birthday Celebration Watch for publicity on dinner and other activities.

By late March and early April Your history stories, memories of deceased members, history tidbits or any history items to be printed in the April issue of the Wagon Tongue need to be submitted to the editor .

April 21, 2011 4:00pm Monthly meeting at First Madison Valley Bank. Program to be announced.

Help needed The board of directors of the MVHA needs ideas for future programs and will need help to put on the William Ennis birthday party. Please contact any director with your ideas and to volunteer to help. Everything that you can do to help in any way will be much appreciated.

Montana Trivia Answers to October 2010 issue:

9. Butte 10. Red Lodge

Trivia will continue in April 2011 issue

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 474
Ennis, MT 59729

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

Board of Directors

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Meetings held monthly on the **third** Thursday of each month. Watch Madisonian for details of time and place and program. (Note the change from 2nd to 3rd Thursday)

Board Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of each month 10:00am. First Madison Bank conference room.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue will be April 2011.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: Virginia Black "*My friend celebrates 103 years*"

J. Hal Pasley "*My Hearing Aid*"

R.R. Robert Hughes *Diary of Thomas S. Hughes Nov. 4- Nov. 16, 1904*

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