



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 3

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

July 2008

From the Wagon Seat: July has arrived hot and dry. The days will be getting shorter and time seems to pass quicker than one would like it. The MVHA board was reorganized in June after the annual meeting in May with Larry Love continuing as president, Otis Thompson as Vice President, Neil Kent continuing as treasurer and Shirley Love and Duane Thexton as co-secretary. Duane is a newly elected board director and Smitty Overstreet and Jimmy Carlson continue as directors.

We finally got approval forms signed by the owners of the property to the east of the MVHA property to share the approach and at the time of printing of the WT, we are awaiting the approval from the DOT. Next will be the power and septic system and drain field. We have a contractor, who is willing to help us, looking at the plans for the forge building (see article page 4). So be ready with your hammers and a strong back to get this project going. We seem to be moving at a snail's pace but the board wants to get everything right the first time.

The upcoming events are the Hutchins Bridge Party on July 20 so plan on attending that again this year. On July 26 is the MVHA fundraising event. It is a 1950's style BBQ, Car Show and Soc Hop. Cost is \$20 per person. Plan to attend and even if you can not attend, you might be able to help us out with a donation. August 23 will be our field trip to historic Pony starting at 10:00am in Pony. Remember that our meeting in September will be the first to be on the third Thursday of the month from now on. It is Sept. 18 at 4:00 at the bank with a program on Norris.

A big thank you to Kid Neville, Karen Shores, Jim Carlson, Neil Kent and Ivory Lutgen for riding on our 4th of July float. Thanks to Rollie Hebel for the wagon, Dode Barnett for coming up with the only idea presented, Shirley Love and Pearl and Les Kilman for making the signs.

We need help at the museum to keep it open. The attendance is up, donations are up, sale proceeds are up. and the Wildlife Museum is now open again after roof repair. The "Beast " is attracting attention and the latest acquisition is a mount of a 25# Rainbow Trout caught in Cliff Lake by George Elliott around 1925, courtesy of Errol Hill of Las Vegas.

Our organization is only as strong as its membership. Check the April Wagon Tongue for the list of things that you can choose from to help us preserve the rich history of the Madison Valley. Last of all, remember the Lessons From Geese-----

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for others behind it. There is 71% more flying range in V-formation than in flying alone. Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there more quickly. Whenever a goose flies out of formation, it feels drag and tries to get back into position. Lesson: It is harder to do something alone than together. When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the head. Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence give us each a chance to lead as well as an opportunity to rest. The geese flying in the rear of the formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. Lesson: Encouragement is motivating. We need to make sure our "honking" is encouraging not discouraging. When a goose gets sick or wounded and falls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. Lesson: We may all need help from time to time. We should stand by our colleagues in difficult times. -Angeles Arrien
Your Wagon Master, Larry Love

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Member Application Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 474, Ennis, Mt. 59729

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.

Name _____

Telephone _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

e-mail address _____ (used only for communication of MVHA info)

(____)Student \$5.00 (____)Individual \$10.00 (____)Family \$15.00 (____)Business \$50.00 (____)Patron \$100.00

Welcome to Membership The following have joined the MVHA since the April 2008 issue. Please add to any membership list you might be keeping. if you need a complete list of members for your committee work, please contact Shirley Love and she will print a complete updated list.

Tuss ,Barba (Rowe) (I)
202 Terrance Loop
Bozeman, MT 59718
587-0085

Tone, Ben (P)
706 S. 9th Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715
587-3641

Membership Update

It is working very well to have memberships due during the year rather than all in January. It makes the job of the treasurer and the membership committee much easier. But it does give you a little job! Please check your mailing label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your membership is due. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased it. Right now April, May, June and July '08 are due and January, February and March '08 are over due. If you pick up your WT at the monthly meeting and do not get an address label, you may check with Smitty or Shirley and we will get you up to date. Thank you for supporting the MVHA

The Madison Valley lost three long time residents or former residents this spring. The MVHA would like to honor their memories with the following stories of their lives.

Mabel Luella Pasley passed away on March 17, 2008 at the age of 101. Luella Krupp Hayden was born the youngest of six children to Mr. and Mrs. Jake Krupp in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Sept. 5, 1906. Five months later her mother, Olive, died. For about a month she was taken care of by an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Antor. Mrs. Mabel Hayden,

sister of her mother, came from Montana and brought her back to Montana with her. Mr. and Mrs. Hayden raised her. They had lost a little boy, Wilford, in 1900, and never recovered from the loss, until Luella came into their lives.

In about 1907, the Haydens took Luella's brother Ben, who was four at the time and he lived with them until he was sixteen. Ben and Luella went to Jack Creek School. They walked the two miles except for the year the teacher boarded at the ranch. Then a horse and buggy was used.

When Luella was six, a son Dallas was born to the Haydens. Everyone was overjoyed.

Luella took the 7th and 8th grade examinations in Ennis High School and attended there until 1924 when her father, Jake Krupp came from Michigan and she went back with him to finish her last year of high school. She returned the fall of 1925 and started working for Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Chowning. She attended Butte Business College for six months and came home and worked for Belle Jeffers. She was working when she and Dar Pasley were married. on Feb. 11, 1928. After they married, they lived in Ennis about a year and Dar still had the meat market. Later he worked for the Diamond J Ranch and the Jumping Horse Ranch.

At the time their first child, James Reid was born on November 12, 1936, Dar was working for Mr. Cadell who owned the Jeffers General Merchandise Store. They were living in a small house in Jeffers. They built onto the house and on February 8, 1936 their daughter Annabelle was born. In 1942 they bought the Betty Baldwin house.

In 1944, Dar became the manager and part owner of the Marshall Wells Store and in 1957 they had the Pasley Farm Service and Pasley & Son Construction. In 1970 they added the Ennis Auto Parts and another addition was added in 1981 for storage of grains, seed and machine parts.

Editor's note:Luella was proceeded in death by her husband, Dar, Their son, J.R., still continues to run the family business in Ennis.

Written by Luella Pasley and taken from **Pogressive Years Madison County, Montana**
Volume II page 766-767.

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back of the membership application

Memories Continued

Elinore M. Baker Bennetts Kirkwood

passed away April 15, 2008 at Davenport, WA at age 97. She was born Oct. 29, 1911 in Virginia City, MT in the same house where her father, Harry W. Baker, Sr. was born. Harry W. Sr. married L. O. "Ollie" Vetter Hungerford on July 2, 1910. After marriage, they moved to V. C. where Elinore was born. Her father worked for a livery stable for a year or so. When Elinore was a few months old, they moved back to the Madison Valley and went to work at the at the Tom Hodgens Ranch. That fall they went to work at the Granite Mountain Ranch (old Butler Ranch later known as the Sun Ranch. Up until Elinore was 3, her family moved back to V. C. and then to Ennis where her father worked in a livery stable for Art Nelson. Following this he worked on various ranches in the valley. From the time Elinore was 3 until she was 6, her family worked at the Valley Garden Ranch. They moved into town and ran a cafe for a couple of years and when Elinore was 9, the moved back to the Valley Garden which her father leased and ranched there until Elinore wa 13. Lilah Jean (Jean Baker Armstrong..long time MVHA member)was born there in 1924.

The Bakers ranched two years at the old Elling Ranch (Al Thexton's) in Varney, then moved to Green Acre Ranch near McAllister which her father leased. In about the 1930's, the Bakers moved into Ennis and had a restaurant, Baker's Cafe now the Ennis Cafe, as well as a bakery..Ennis Bakery now the Depot Gallery. Elinore graduated from high school in Ennis and married T. E. (Earl) Bennetts in 1928. They raised three children, Donna, Dixie, Ted and after the children reached school age, she worked outside the home. With her parents and husband, they operated restaurants and a bakery at different times in Ennis. In mid-life, she started an accounting career and worked for a Ford dealership. In 1964, she and Earl moved to Davenport, WA and began a 17 year career at Lincoln Hospital as an accountant. Earl passed away in 1985 and Elinore married Robert R. Kirkwood in 1990 and they lived in the Davenport until his death in 1999. Information compiled by the editor from Pioneer Trails and Trials, Madison County, MT. and Elinore Kirkwood obituary printed in the April 23, 2008 *Madisonian*.

Former Madison County resident, **Alma Louise Wallace Oliver**, passed away April 17, 2008 in Polson at the age of 95. She was born Feb. 27, 1913 in Butte to William and Sarah Perkins Wallace In 1915 her family left Butte and came to Madison County where they took up a dry land homestead on the south side of the Madisonian Hill. Alma remembered some who lived near them--Harry Adams who had a homestead right on top of the hill The Mike Dringles had a place nearby, also 3

C.Victor Jones, bachelor, Dan Marshall who was caretaker at the Madisonian Mine and Mrs. Carmichael. In the fall of 1921, the Wallace's sold the homestead and moved to a small place on the hill just east of the place which is now the Bowersox ranch. They then lived on the Ben Whitman ranch and later on the old Pat Shoenger ranch which later was the Lewis Hughes ranch. Alma married Cl Albertarence Oliver on July 3, 1936 in Butte. Her parents lived with them for awhile before they went back to Andersonville, Tennessee. Alma and Clarence lived several places in the valley and for a time in Tennessee. During her life, alma cooked at the Madison Valley Hospital, Ennis Cafe, Bettie's Cafe and Sportsman Lodge. She also cleaned cabins at the Sportsman Lodge and Morgan's El Western and worked for Meals on Wheels all in Ennis.

Information excerpted from Trails and Trials Madison County, Mt. p. 143(Clarence Oliver) and p. 196(William Wallace) and the Alma Oliver obituary printed in the April 23, 2008 *Madisonian*

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History Tidbit Earl and Elinore Bennets were so nice to all the high school girls. They would get as many as they could in their car and take them to the proms in different towns. I remember going to Harrison and Sheridan. This was during World War II and I always wondered where they got the gas. Boys were scarce because they were in the service. Submitted by Mary Ann Neville Alger.

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Branding Iron from 1805 state's earliest

What was the first brand in Montana? Was it Capt Meriweather Lewis' brand on a piece of leather to mark bales of furs, botanical specimens and other items for shipment on the keelboat Mandan in 1805?

E.E."Boo" MacGilvra of Butte, reports in the July Montana Stockgrower magazine that the original branding iron used on the leather was discovered among some rocks on the north shore of the Columbia River below Mamaloose Island. The iron is on display in Portland.

MacGilvra says "We have long considered the Poindexter and Orr Square and Compass or some early wagon train arrivals as being the initial brand in the Treasure State. However, the piece of leather branded by Captain Lewis around 1805 proves to be the earliest in Montana."

The P and O spread, now the Rock Island, is on the Blacktail Creek near Dillon.

Editor's note: Are there any brand histories and stories available for sharing with the MVHA?

History Tidbit Albert Finley, Jr. was the 2004 Tug of War Attendee who claims to have been the first person, along with Clifford Jeffers, to hike to the summit of Fan Mountain. Who else has hiked to the summit of Fan Mountain and might have a story?

The MVHA received \$12,442.56 to help build a replica of the Otto Coss Oscar Angle blacksmith shop. This donation was given by Doris(Sis) Angle Benschoter, daughter of Oscar Angle. The following article is written by her about her life. Article donated by Larry Kiefer, nephew of Doris.

I would have been born in Ennis, Montana on January 7, 1923 except for the fact that the doctors in Ennis were out of town and the nearest doctor was in Sheridan, which was about 35 miles away. There were no paved roads back then but the old Model T Ford did pretty good getting over the mountains and through the snow drifts. The trip took about 4 hours. I was born in the Ruby Valley Hotel in Sheridan--I always told Don I didn't like house-work because I was born in a hotel!

My mother was a school teacher before she married. My father was a blacksmith. I can remember my mother tutoring some of the kids that would come to our house. I had the impression she was helping them with algebra. Us kids also spent time in the blacksmith shop watching Dad make horse-shoes and putting them on horses. I remember one old gentle work horse that he always had to hog tie to get the shoes on. That old horse would just go wild every time he needed new shoes.

I started school when I was 5 years old--in first grade--we never heard of kindergarten back then. My brother, Wellington who was 11 months older, started at the same time. When I was 8 years old, my sister Emily Lou was born on Jan 23, 1931. The following year on Feb. 17, my brother Melvin Keith was born. My youngest brother, Donald, was born on April 8, 1934. Four days later on April 12 my mother died. My aunt Hattie Angle took care of Donald for about three months. We had 3 different women come in to care for us in as many months. Then Mrs. Elizabeth Baker came with her four year old daughter. She was only 25 at the time. She stayed until the boys were in high school except for the summer when I was 15 when she decided to take the summer off. With my brother's help we managed to get through the summer on our own. Mrs. Baker came back when school started. I guess she needed us as bad as we needed her.

Things weren't the easiest for her. We had water in the house--a pump in the kitchen. A wood stove to cook on in the kitchen and a stove for heating the house was in the living room. Actually what we had was a four room house with a path. There were several families around town that wanted to adopt the younger kids but Dad wouldn't hear of that. It was hard for him but he kept us all together.

I graduated in 1940 and worked in the post office for a few months and also worked part time for the forest service as a secretary. While in high school, I had a teacher who talked me into taking an extra year of shorthand and also told me about a summer course at the University in Missoula which would give a person some idea of the civil service tests 4

one could take. After I took that course in the summer of 1941, I went to Bozeman to take the civil service test.

Our country got into World War II in December 1941. In March of 1942, I got a telegram asking if I could report to the State Dept. in Washington, DC. When I took the civil service tests, I wasn't planning to go quite that far from home but I got up enough nerve to keep from backing out and sent back a reply in a few days that I would come. I wouldn't start at the entry pay of \$1200 but the next step up at \$1440 since I was going so far from home. (This was the advice I got from our postmistress.) Doesn't sound like much pay these days but back then it was pretty darn good and would buy all you needed. And after all, there was a war on and there were a lot of things you couldn't buy anyway. Back then you could buy a good pair of shoes for \$5 and they were soon rationed.

I left home on April 13, 1942--a Monday and arrived in Washington on Thursday. It was a long tiresome trip on the train. Had to change trains in Chicago. I met another girl on the train going to D. C. and together we managed to find where to transfer to the right train and get us to our destination. We went to the YWCA together and they assigned a temporary room until they found us something more permanent. This is when we separated and went different directions. She went to work in the War Dept. I was sent to an apartment of an elderly spinster who rented her two bedrooms for the war effort. My roommate was from Nebraska and work-ed at the Pentagon building across the river in Virginia. The girls in the other room were both from Virginia--Charlottesville and Norfolk. This apartment building was only about three blocks from the State Dept., which was one of the big buildings next to the White House. It is now being used as White House offices and the State Dept. was moved down near the Potomac River. The other big building on the other side of the White House is the Treasury Building.

In September 1942 Dad came back to D.C. and went down to Virginia. This was the first time he had been back since he left in 1903. Two of his brothers, Waller and Burks and his oldest sister Honora Cordelia were in Montana. But he still had four sisters and two brothers in Virginia. They all lived around the Rocky Mount area. In the summer of 1943, Dad's youngest sister, Ethel met me in D.C. and went to Montana with me. The train we were on from D.C. to Chicago must have been from the 1800s. There was no air conditioning and we opened the windows and the trains in those days were run by coal. We were all a sooty mess by the time we got to Chicago. From Chicago on, we had much better traveling on the North Coast Limited unless the train was pulled off on a siding. Troop trains and some freight trains had priority(continued on pg 5)

(Continued from page 4)

and seems as though we were about 4 hours late getting to Bozeman that trip. When Ethel and I went back we took my sister, Emily, with us. She went on down to Virginia with Aunt Ethel and stayed about a week. Then she came up to D. C. and stayed another week. I was working afternoon shift and we did some sight seeing in the morning and early afternoon. My roommates took her out to an amusement park and took her for a ride on a roller coaster. She thought she was going to like that really well but after one ride, they said she changed her mind and as far as I know, she never rode another one. When it was time for her to go back to Montana, I went as far as Chicago with her. We did some sightseeing there and went to Marshall Fields Department store. I put her on the train about 11p.m. at night and as I've thought about that in later years, I'm not so sure I would do that again.

In March 1944, I was called home to see my oldest brother, Wellington. He was a mechanic in the Air Force and was being shipped out to the South Pacific. On the way back to D.C., I got on a train at Bozeman about 8 pm. I was told by the other passengers that the only seat unoccupied was the one at the far end of the coach--the one where you ride backward and face the other passengers. There were 2 soldiers there, I was told. About 15 minutes after the train pulled out of Bozeman, the two soldiers came through the door at the far end of the coach. When I saw Don, the first thought came to mind was that is the man I'm going to marry. By the time we got to Chicago, we exchanged addresses and began to write each other. He was on his way back to Michigan. His grandmother had died. He didn't make it back in time for the funeral. He was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington at that time. Later after going back, he was transferred to Fort Bragg, N.C. He was shipped out in late November to England and soon was in Germany. He came back in May 1946 and came to see me in D.C. He proposed when we were at the top of the Washington Monument. I knew at the time I would be going to the four power conference (U.S, France, England, and Russia). We were to be gone 6 weeks. Others were to go over for the Peace Conference which was to follow soon after. But the planes got grounded because of accidents so they decided to keep us over there for the Peace Conference. There were four from our division to go. There was about 100 to 150 that worked in the communications division in the State Department. We felt quite fortunate that that we were chosen to go. We worked in the codes and ciphers and our messages came in during the night and we started work about 6 a. m. and worked till about noon and had the rest of the day off for sightseeing. Occasionally one or two of us had to work a Sunday but we felt we had it made!! We worked at the Embassy which was within walking distance of the hotel-the Maurice. 5

There was a total of about 100 in the peace conference delegation including two senators-Vandenberg from Michigan and Connely(sp) from Texas.

As I look back, French was offered instead of Latin during my second year of high school. I decided to take it. I got good grades in daily work and even on tests. But the teacher gave a D or an F on report cards. I couldn't get any answers from her so Mrs. Baker went with me to question the teacher. She said she had just started a new grading system--grading on the curve. One person in the class had to flunk. Seems like she thought coming from a poor family, I would never get to France anyway. Well, guess who the first person to get to France was--on a Diplomatic passport and all expenses paid. Our salary at home was going directly into the bank saving. We drew what they called per diem which we used for our own expenses over there. Doris Angle Benschoter's story to be continued in future issues of the Wagon Tongue.

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Montana Trivia. part 6 Montana is a huge state and there are lots of clues. If you find an answer to any clue that you feel is just as good as the answer, please share it and we will add yours to the trivia. Get your maps out and here are 15 more clues. Answers at the Sept. meeting and in the October Wagon Tongue.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. A crimson teepee | 9. A famished animal |
| 2. A hot beverage stream | 10. An albino trout |
| 3. Maker of little liver pills | 11. Called Yellow Hair |
| 4. Elevated fuel | 12. A dark bird |
| 5. A month of the year | 13. Used to hold up your pants |
| 6. A thermal fountain | 14. The keeper of lambs |
| 7. A type of footwear | 15. Energy |
| 8. A gathering of cattle | |

Answers to Montana Trivia part 5 April 2008

1. Warning to a child about to touch something hot.-Birney
2. A long legged bird-Crane or Heron
3. A young flower-Rosebud
4. A small car-Austin or Dodson
5. The posterior of an aquatic animal-Fishtail
6. A foreign village-Frenchtown
7. A famous circus-Ringling
8. A Warm wind-Chinook
9. A single tree-Lone tree
10. To ask a blessing-Prau
11. An area between hills or mountains-Plains
12. A colon-Two Dot
13. Hikers's town-Walkerville
14. A grain and a closure-Ryegate
15. On what the early settlers squatted-Homestead

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For your reading pleasure

When Montana and I were Young A frontier childhood by Margaret Bell Memoir is as tough, gritty and blue as the Montana Frontier in the 1890's.

In Open Spaces by Russell Rowland A novel set in the vast and unforgiving prairie of eastern Montana from 1916 to 1946 is the compelling story of the Arbuckle brothers.

Looking ahead

Sun. July 20 Hutchins Bridge Party. 6:00-9:00

at the Old Kirby Place. MVHA will share in the proceeds from this fun event so plan to attend.

Watch for details of this event in local papers

Sat. July 26, Car Show, BBQ and SocHop

Relive the 1950's with the MVHA fundraiser!!

Car show at Elem School parking lot from 4-5pm, BBQ at Lions Club Park from 5-6:30pm and dance your socks off to tunes from the 50's and 60's at Elem School gym from 7-10pm. Tickets at \$20 per person available at the museum or from MVHA volunteers. Proceeds go to the MVHA museum project. Talk this event up with your friends, family and neighbors. Let us get a big crowd!!

Sat., August 23, '08 is the field trip to historic Pony, Mt. Meet at the Museum at 121 W. Main in Ennis for car pooling at 9:00am with tour to start at 10:00 am in Pony. Bring a picnic lunch and water and good walking shoes. Tour will be about 2 hours with lunch at noon. Janet Zimmerman will guide the tour.

Sept 18, '08, 4:00pm at the First Madison Bank will be the first MVHA meeting with the change from the 2nd. Thursday to the 3rd Thursday. Program will be a history of Norris.

History Tidbit Lawrence Jeffers and Lawrence Rose caught the famous Madison Valley *Albino Skunk*. Whatever happened to it?

Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Larry Love

Vice President: Otis Thompson

Treasurer: Neil Kent

Co-Secretary: Duane Thexton & Shirley Love

Director: Jimmy Carlson

Director: Smitty Overstreet

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.

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be October 2008.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing Editors: Luella Pasley from

Progressive Years

Madison County, Montana Vol 11 page 766-767

Alma Wallace Oliver from Pioneer Trails and Trials,

Madison County, Mt. page 143 and 196

Doris (Sis) Angle Benschoter writing her memories

E.E. "Boo" MacGilvra *Branding Iron from 1805*

States Earliest from Montana Stockgrower (date?)

Montana Trivia--Zoe Todd

History Tidbits--Don Black

--Mary Ann Alger

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

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