



The Wagon Tongue

Volume 6 Issue 4

Madison Valley History Association, Inc.

October 2008

From the Wagon Seat: Fall has arrived. The beautiful fall colors are out, the birds are flocking together and the hunters are getting ready. The MVHA is also moving along, too. The Hutchins Bridge Party was a big success again. Those organizers "up our way" deserve an big "thank you" from each of us for the amount of money that they raise for the MVHA. A big thank you to Deb and Harry Townshend, Nancy and Carl Vess, Linda Miller and to all of the other volunteers that had a hand in getting a great party done. Our 50's Soc Hop and car show was successful. Thanks to Zoe Todd and to everyone who purchased tickets, made donations, brought food and helped out in any way when called upon.

The MVHA has been selected for the "Fish Out of Water" fundraising project. Our fish is a "historical" fish titled "Carrying the Legacy" depicting history events in the area by artist Christine Blockledge. This needs to be talked up to get people interested in bidding on the fish. The higher the bids the better!! The MVHA will receive 45% of the final bid at the auction next Labor Day. More information will be given in January as the Economic Development group gets their Web site up and information on fundraising out.

The summer field trips to Wall Creek and Pony were rated a great success by all those who attended. If you have ideas for field trips for next summer, please let a board member know. A great big thank you goes out to all who volunteered at our museum this summer. The attendance and donations were way up. The beast was very popular as well as the big rainbow trout. Our only problem was not being open some days because of lack of volunteers.

We now have an approach to our land and now we need to have it paved. Any ideas? We have a carpenter looking at the plans for the blacksmith shop and we will soon have an idea on a museum building. We need to have members step forward to help and get involved. We need members to volunteer to do fundraising or present new ideas for fundraising. We need volunteers to do programs or ideas for programs for Smitty to pursue. Our oral history project is doing well but volunteers are needed to do interviews. The board needs your help in preserving the history of the Madison Valley. The board cannot do this task alone.

You need to stop by the First Madison Valley Bank and check out the history wall. You will be delighted It is on the Jeffers area. Thanks go to Marlene and Elso Reintz, Shirley Gustafson and Darlene Pasley.

The board needs to have your input. An association is only as good as our membership. It may seem like we are at a snail's pace with our museum project but the board feels that we need to get it right.

Join us as we have the monthly meetings and programs. November hopefully will be Hal Pasley with his stories. December will be the annual Christmas potluck dinner with sharing of Christmas stories and showing off old Christmas ornaments or decorations. 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 since the July 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.

- Columbia, Mike (I)**
44 Shining Mountain Loop 406-682-7338
Ennis, MT 59729
- Free, Flo B. (I)** 509-884-0305
2218 N. W. Alan
E. Wenatchee, WA 98802
- Hill, Errol (I)** 702-385-2723
1614 Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89104
- Olson, Dale A. (I)** 406-664-3176
HCR 46 Box 54
Belfry, MT 59008
- Parish, Ed & Yvonne (F)** 406-682-3003
Sun West Ranch 6 Pine Ridge Road
Cameron, Mt 59720

Membership Update

Please check your address label on your Wagon Tongue and you will be able to tell when your next membership is due. Your membership is good for a full year from the date that you purchased your membership. Thank you for supporting the MVHA.

AA

The Madison Valley lost a long time resident on May 23, 2008 when **Madalyn Cecelia Scully** passed away at the Madison Valley Manor. Madalyn was born on November 19, 1920 in Bozeman to Stephen F. and Celelia E. McDonnell. She grew up on a ranch in the lower Madison Valley and came to love this family home. During her father's lifetime, the ranch grew and they raised Hereford cattle and Rambouillet sheep. She never forgot the all day cooking for the ranch hands and shearing crew when she would rather be outside. She remembered the wagon trips to Helena to get supplies. All the ranchers would participate in these trips. She would tell of her family history about a relative, Annie L. McDonnell, who was born in 1865. Annie was one of the first white children born in the Three Forks area. Because of her blonde hair and light skin, she was greatly admired by the Indians--so much so that they eventually stole her. Annie's parents and neighbors organized a posse and went after her. She was recovered unharmed. Madalyn attended school in the lower Madison Valley until 8th grade. She rode a horse to school every day and once in a while her father would take a sleigh with blankets in the winter. She moved to Manhattan in the winters and stayed with her Grandmother Waters and graduated from high school there in 1938. She then attended Dillon Normal School(now Western Montana College) graduating with a 2 year teaching degree in 1940 at the age of 19.

She began her teaching career in Ennis in 1941 and stayed with the Linton family. While teaching in Ennis, Madalyn met John F. Scully who was also teaching in the Ennis School system. Jack entered the Navy Air Corp in 1941 and Madalyn moved to Helena to Helena Central where she taught 5th grade in 1943. They were to be married in Manhattan during Jack's leave during the Christmas Holidays. The war escalated, leave was canceled and Jack was sent to Jacksonville, FL as a flight instructor, Madalyn terminated her position in Helena and took the train to Jacksonville to be married on Dec. 18 at the Navy church. While Jack was stationed in the Philippines, Madalyn returned to the family ranch. She purchased sheep with money she and Jack earned. In 1945, both returned to Ennis with Madalyn teaching 3rd and 4th grade and Jack teaching 7th and 8th grade. They lived at the ranch now known as the Channels, so named by Ed and Byllie Maynard. They rode the school bus to town until the school board decided that teachers could not ride the bus. They rented a house from Porter Nelson until he learned that Madalyn was pregnant with their first child, John. Porter would not allow children so they purchased a small motel from Roy and Lucy Taylor in 1946 with the money saved from the sale of their sheep and they continued to improve and operate it until 1986. It is currently known as the Grizzly Motel on Main Street. When they moved to the motel, they would occasionally allow the priest from Laurin to have a service in the house. The home as heated with an oil stove that was very hot. Madalyn often told two stories about those days which John shared with the Wagon Tongue. I was playing with a ball and it bounced behind the stove. The priest was there and went to retrieve the ball until I said, "Get away from that stove. The God Damned thing is hot!!" A cowboy came in to rent a room and I hollered to her, "My God ,Mom. It's Hop along Cassidy!" That house was also the place where daughter Marcy, while cutting a ribbon on her doll, slipped and cut her eye with a steak knife. The Ennis Lion's Club which Jack helped organize and attended was instrumental in the medical treatment that followed for that eye. Madalyn returned to teaching in Harrison for seven years, 1971-78, and tutored and was a teacher in Ennis for many years. She also coached girls basketball and track. Madalyn always said that if she had a second life she would be a horse trainer. A dream was to go to the Kentucky Derby. Her family took her in 1999 and she returned with her new bonnet and 6 mint Julep glasses even though she'd rather have a Miller Lite. She even won money on all the races except for the Derby.

Madalyn Scully Memories are from Madalyn's son, John Scully and the *Madisonian* obituary May 28, 2008.

Continued from Wagon Tongue, July 2008
We left Doris Angle Benschoter going to the Peace Conference in France.

We left on June 11, 1946 on a TWA Constellation and flew by way of Newfoundland and also stopped somewhere in Ireland where we had breakfast before going on to Paris. The trip took a total of about 18 hours and our plane broke a record they told us because we had a tail wind most of the way.

As these planes had been grounded because of accidents while we were there, it was decided we would go back on a new luxury liner "The United States". But that wasn't to be either because of a dock strike in New York and the ship couldn't even leave port. We then had a choice of coming back on an army transport plane or on an English ship "The Aquatania". This ship was one of Britain's luxury liners before the war and was to be a luxury liner again. Much of the ship had already been redone. The staterooms still had the bunks the troops had used. There were four of us to a room about 8 by 8 feet. We left France on October 27 and arrived in New York Nov. 2. I didn't have any problem with seasickness but after I got home I could feel the rolling motion for about a week when I went to bed. About halfway across we were told we were passing one other ship (I believe they said the Queen Mary) but we couldn't see it for the fog and mist. We could hear the fog horns from the other ship.

Later in November after I got back from Paris, I took some leave and came to Michigan to see Don and to meet his family. We decided we would set a February date to get married. I went on to Montana to see my family before going back to D.C. We decided on Feb. 22 date. My Dad (Oscar Angle) and two youngest brothers came back at that time and afterward went on to visit in Virginia. So I got all my family to Virginia where Dad had grown up. My oldest brother asked to get his discharge in D.C. in January 1946 and we went to Virginia at that time.

Don had started working at Oldsmobile during the summer of 1946. In June we bought a house on Johnson Ave. John was on the way and the doctor said he would be here about Christmas time. He was born Dec. 3, 1947. When John was 11 months we went to Montana on the train. We were out there on election day. We had voted by absentee ballot before we left. Dad was always the judge of the election in Ennis. He had been for several years and was up most of the night counting votes.

The next time I went out to visit Dad, Don didn't go. John was 2 1/2 years old. I stayed about a month at that time. The Korean War started while I was out there and there were rumors that they might take some of the W.W.II vets back in the army. I thought I had better get back home just in case it was true.

Dianna was born on Sept./ 26, 1951. When she was 3 months old, Dad came to Michigan for his first visit to Michigan. He went on to Virginia later. 3

When Dianna was 10 months old we went out to Montana by train. Emily had 3 children by then-- Larry was born April 13, 1949, Nancy on Sept. 25, 1950 and Kathryn on Sept. 18, 1951. Dianna started talking at 9 months. She could say 3 words--dog cracker and baby. Of course when we got to Montana the only word she said right was cracker. That summer we went to Yellowstone Park--Dad, Don, Emily, and myself plus five kids--all in one small car. When I was growing up Dad had a Chevrolet (1927-'28). There were six of us kids, Mrs. Baker, Dad, and sometimes we took an old friend of Dad's Jim Floyd. I don't remember fighting like John and Dianna used to in the back seat as they were growing up. Of course, it was quite a treat to go anywhere back then. The car was never used for anything but special trips. Living in a small town, we didn't need a car in town.

First time we went out by car was 1954. The car broke down in Worthington, Minn. and we spent the better part of the day getting repairs but it was a pretty good trip and I believe we went through the park that year too.

We moved to Delta Township in 1955 and didn't go West again until 1959. We went to Yellowstone Park that time too. We stopped at Hebgen Dam to see George Hungerford on our way back to Ennis. (He was my Aunt Ollie Baker's son by her first marriage) He was caretaker at the dam.

Editor's note: We will leave Doris Benschoter at Hebgen Dam and continue her memoirs in the Jan. 2009 issue.

Chamberlin Homestead

Edwin Austin Chamberlin was born at Windham, Connecticut on April 11, 1864, the only child of a sea captain. After retirement, the Captain moved his wife and son to Minnesota.

Ed married Minnie Louise Wruck, who was born in 1873 in Coburg, Germany. Minnie moved to Minnesota when she was four years of age.

In 1902 Ed Chamberlin met William J. "Will" Ennis, Jr. at horse races in Rosebud, Montana. Will had heard of Ed's work for M. W. Savage, the owner of the famed trotting horse, Dan Patch. At the time Will Ennis owned a promising horse, "Dyke" but didn't know much about training or racing horses. After talking with Ed, Will offered him a job with better wages than Savage would pay. In addition to the better wages, he was to receive meat and butter from the Ennis ranch, and a house, provided free for Ed and his family. After visiting Ennis, Ed and Minnie decided to make the move.

Ed came to Ennis in 1902 with Minnie and children joining him in 1904. The young family consisted of Anthony Lee "Tony" born June 7, 1898, Lewis Austin "Lewie" born October 30, 1899 and baby Grace Hannah born June 3, 1902. (cont. pg 4)
When the family first moved to town, they lived in a house owned by the Ennis family (continued on page 4)

Chamberlin Homestead continued from page 3
When the family first moved to town, they lived in a house owned by the Ennis family which was eventually the Clancy House and was a part of the old library. Dorothy Louise was born in this house on January 14, 1904. Sadly she drowned in an irrigation ditch next to that house on June 14, 1905.

Ed was in charge of the Ennis family's livestock, which included pet elk. These animals gave the residents of Ennis many anxious moments. Ed managed to form a team with the elk, which was driven in an Elk's Convention parade in Salt Lake City in 1905.

"Grandma" Ennis (Mrs. William, Sr.) gave a parcel of land to the Chamberlin family as a home site. This land included the parcel which is presently the site of the Valley Bank.

On the land the Chamberlains built a house, corrals, stage stop and various other buildings. Minnie Chamberlain was a fine cook and started a boarding house. During the period from 1910 to 1912 when Hebgen Dam was being built, she fed and housed as many as 25 to 30 men on a daily basis.

After the death of Will Ennis in 1908, Ed Chamberlin contracted to drive the stage route south from Ennis, carrying mail and supplies to the residents of the upper Madison Valley.

Ed also served as manager for several large ranches in the valley, including the Valley Garden, Green Acre (McAllister area) and the Bear Creek Ranch at Cameron. On February of 1926, Ed Chamberlin suffered a stroke and died March 31, 1926.

Minnie Chamberlin lived her life out in their home. She had many young people live with her while they attended high school in Ennis. The students came from West Yellowstone and the upper Madison Valley to stay with "Grandma Chamberlin. Minnie was an avid supporter of the Ennis community, always encouraging its' growth and prosperity. She passed away May 12, 1950.

After her death, son Lewis and Gladys Chamberlin moved their family of Norman, Dode and Freda into the house, where they continued the tradition of housing young people while they attended school in Ennis.

Lewis Chamberlin was the first graduate from Ennis High School in 1918. He operated the Farmer's Union, (presently the Antique Mini-Mall), worked in Death Valley, California, for the Anaconda Company at the Anaconda Smelter, and as maintenance man for the Madison Valley Hospital. He was a charter member of the Commercial Club (now Chamber of Commerce) helped raise funds for the construction of the Madison Valley Hospital, and was a volunteer on the Fire Department. He was Justice of the Peace for 25 years and Ennis City Judge for 5 years. Lewie was renowned for his wonderful gardens, from which many people

enjoyed the bounty. He passed away on March 10, 1983.

Gladys Chamberlin was born outside Virginia City, Montana on September 29, 1903 to Montana Pioneers, Thomas and Mary Thexton. She was raised on the family ranch near Varney where she attended grade school. She graduated from high school in Bozeman in 1923.

"Nanny" as she was affectionately known, always had a warm hug for any child. She was always active, including driving her car until a broken hip at age 90 forced her to stop. She insisted up until she died at age 95 in 1998, that she could drive herself, should the need arise.

Gladys was active in the Commercial Club, Eastern Star and Madison Valley Woman's Club. She saw the changes taking place in Ennis as a step forward, not backward.

The Chamberlin, Barnett and Toner families are happy to see the Valley Bank building in Ennis and know that the members of the family who went before them would be pleased to see Ennis moving forward.

Chamberlin Homestead article written by Vurnie K. Barnett and given to WT by Dode Barnett.

Camels Didn't Work by Phyllis Smith

Six camels made a brief appearance in front of the Gibson House on Virginia City's Idaho Street in late May 1865. Freighters brought them up from Arizona with the hope they would carry freight from Virginia City to Fort Benton. The men had great hopes for the use of the animals. Camels could carry packs four times heavier than those carried by horses or mules, managing eight hundred to one thousand pounds to the two hundred pounds carried by a horse or mule: moreover, camels travel as much as 60 miles per day. An added benefit was that Indians were afraid of the camels. Even so, the plan did not work out. Virginia City horses were frightened by the camels as well and balked at their smell if the beasts were nearby.

Before the camels left the area, however, the VC children had a wonderful time riding the humped creatures. Ten small children could ride one dromedary at the same time. Granville Stuart remembered one young lady of 16 summers perched comfortably on one of the kneeling animals, but when the awkward beast attempted to regain its feet, she was wholly unprepared for the sudden dip forward and was pitched head first into the street, but fortunately escaped serious injury" This accident brought camel riding to a halt. They were moved to Snow Shoe Gulch. Alas, a hunter in that area who thought he had downed an elk, discovered he had shot one of the camels instead. The remaining five went safely to Utah.

Phyllis Smith is a MVHA member who resides in Bozeman and is author of several history books including *Montana's Madison County: A History*.

From the Mail Box

From Dale A. Olson from Belfry, MT. 7/19/08

It was good to visit Ennis last May and visit with Jack (Kirby) and you (Larry) at the museum. The Beast story will make a valued addition to my book The Burgess Long Range Repeating Rifle Model 1878

It's always a treat to find this much history on a particular subject, and especially to hold the rifle that was believed to have been the gun used to shoot the "Beast".

Editor's note: Dale has joined the MVHA, made a donation and will soon have his book published with the story of the beast a part of his book.

From Ben Tone, Bozeman, Mt. after speaking to MVHA meeting. 6/21/08

I enjoyed speaking to your group. I admire what you are doing to preserve Montana history.

My wife, Nina, as you know was from Alder and also greatly interested in Montana History. This is one of the reasons I wanted to speak to your group. I did not expect compensation for my talk but accept your check with thanks. I would also like you to accept the enclosed donation to your group to help them in their desire to preserve the history of MT. Editor's note: Ben also joined the MVHA to help support our preservation of history.

History Wall at the First Madison Valley Bank

When the bank was being designed and built, a wall to display historical items of the Madison Valley was included. The first display was prepared by the MVHA and the architect and was about the history of Ennis. The second display was prepared by Stephanie Vujovich and was about the Hutchins Family and the Hutchins Bridge and was prepared to coincide with the Hutchins Bridge Celebration. The third display is currently up and is the history of Jeffers. This display was prepared by Marlene and Elso Reintz, Shirley Gustafson and Darlene Pasley.

A special thank you is given to all the individuals who have helped prepare the history displays and to the First Madison Valley Bank for having the foresight to have an area to display the rich history of the Madison Valley.

Take time to drop by the bank and see this history wall. Interested individuals and families are invited to prepare a history display for this wall as the intent is to continually rotate this display and show the varied and interesting history of the Madison Valley. Prepared displays can be kept and eventually be displayed at the future museum of the MVHA.

The bank is planning special signs to better note the history wall and they are planning a celebration event for the history wall later this fall, possibly sometime in November.

Montana Trivia part 7 Montana is a large state and here are lots of clues for each town. 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. And you might make up clues for towns that are not included yet!! Get your maps out and here are more clues. Answers at the November meeting and in the January Wagon Tongue.

1. A famous Ballet
2. Solar explosion
3. To hold back
4. Book of accounts
5. Frying
6. Before this
7. Beside the pond
8. An early wild man
9. To find
10. A steep small water fall
11. Where we would all like to go some day
12. When the preacher says to the Bride Groom..
"Will you..... to be your faithful wife? "
13. A large cascade of water
14. Girl's names (there are at least 20)
15. Boy's names (there are at least 24)

Answers to Montana Trivia Part 6

1. A crimson teepee- Red Lodge
2. A hot beverage- Coffee Creek
3. Maker of little liver pills- Carter
4. An elevated fuel- Highwood
5. A month of the year- Augusta
6. A thermal fountain- Geysers
7. A type of footwear- Moccasin
8. A gathering of cattle- Roundup
9. A famished animal- Hungary Horse
10. An albino trout- Whitefish
11. Called yellow hair- Custer
12. A dark bird - Black Eagle
13. Used to hold up your pants-Belt
14. The keeper of lambs-Shepherd
15. Energy-Power

History of Jeffers: Is just across the Madison River from Ennis. The ranches that surround it are some of the oldest in the valley. It was named for Myron D. Jeffers, a New York native who worked his way west as a miner and civil engineer. In 1864 he came to the Madison and freighted for the gold camps. In 1869 he trailed a herd of cattle up from Texas and sold them in Bannack and in 1871 he trailed another herd from Texas and noted in his diary that 1,894 cattle and 37 horses were "Road Branded". With this herd he started the Yellow Barn Cattle Ranch. His wife Florence (Switzer) was the first postmaster in Jeffers when the office opened in 1903. The Switzer store served as post office and general merchandise headquarters for many years. From 1940 until the office closed in 1975, Helen Wonder served as postmaster and community store keeper. From *Names on the Face of Montana* by Roberta Carkeek Cheney page 139

For Your Reading Pleasure

Homestead by Annick Smith In 1964 Annick Smith came to Montana with her husband Dave and their boys. In a fertile valley where meadows tip downward toward the Big Blackfoot River, they found what they had dreamed of: 163 acres of ranch land with a view of creek, hills, and the Rattlesnake Mountains. The Montana of which Annick Smith writes in this spirited and generous book is the not-so-distant West of outlaws and pioneers, Indians and soldiers, range inspectors and cattle thieves.

Christmas time in Montana by Dave Walter An entertaining assortment of Christmas memoirs newspaper accounts and editorials, poems and menus connects readers to the state's varied history through the celebration of Christmas Day.

Both books are available at the Madison Valley Public Library or interlibrary loan.

Looking Ahead

Nov.20 4:00pm at First Madison Valley Bank
Program: Hopefully Hal Pasley and his stories.

Sometime in Nov. the First Madison Valley Bank will be having a Celebration of the History Wall. Watch for date and time.

Dec. 18 4:00pm Location TBA Christmas potluck, Christmas story and old ornament sharing

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

**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. First Madison Valley Bank

The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly.

Next issue will be January 2009.

Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors:

John Scully and the Madisonian obituary for

Memories of Madalyn Scully

Doris (Sis) Angle Breschoter writing her memories

Vurnie K Barnett "Chamberlin Homestead"

Zoe Todd "Montana Tidbits"

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