

# TheWagonTongue

Volume 7 Issue 4

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

October 2009

#### From the Wagon Seat:

Summer is over, fall is here, and winter is just around the corner. The MVHA is back with its regularly scheduled program with members meeting the third Thursday of each month at 4 pm at the First Madison Valley Bank. We have some exciting programs lined up, so watch for their announcement in the *Madisonian*.

We have been busy working on our Museum building. The new roof is on, a porch was added, electricity is now to the building, and we are now back filling around the building. We had a great work party in September who tore the old siding off the building and tore down some temporary walls inside the building to make a larger open display area. We are now in the process of getting the siding ordered and hope to have it up by the end of October. I want to thank all those members who have helped but I won't mention anyone by name for fear that I would leave someone out. As a fund raiser for this project, the MVHA will be selling boards in the "Walk of Names" at the Museum on which names (and your brand, if you have one) will be engraved. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, any donation you make to the MVHA is tax deductible, so honor your Madison Valley ancestors (and yourself) by having their names (and yours) displayed as a sponsor for this worthy project.

A group of MVHA volunteers journeyed to Bozeman in August to retrieve some old farm machinery (two horse drawn mowers and a dump rake) that has been donated to the Museum and will become part of our permanent display. If any of you know of other such artifacts that are "rusting" away somewhere, contact one of the board members and we will try to acquire it for our Museum. We have plenty of room

to display these artifacts at our new location.

We had two wonderful field trips this past summer. On August 20, twenty members journeyed to the Madison Earthquake site and had an enjoyable outing reliving some of the excitement from that event that occurred 50 years ago. On September 17, eighteen members journeyed to Whitehall to visit the Jefferson Valley Museum. The staff at the Jefferson County Museum were excellent hosts and passed on many suggestions and ideas as we plan our new facility.

The Madison County Economic Development Council (MCEDC) "Fish Out of Water" art auction is now history. The sculpture that was assigned to the MVHA sold for \$4250 (of which the MVHA received \$1912.50.) A big thank you goes out to the MCEDC staff for all their efforts on our behalf and to

Bullwinkle's Restaurant in West Yellowstone for purchasing this piece.

MVHA is registered with the Montana State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign in which all 13,000+ state employees are invited to give to their choice of non-profit organizations. If you are or you know someone who is a state employee, encourage them to mark the MVHA as the choice for the 2010 payroll deduction giving. A special thanks for Larry Love and John and Ann White who set up and managed a booth for the MVHA at this Campaign's annual kickoff drive in Helena on October 2.

Gary Forney, historical author about Madison County, has been contacted by Arcadia Publishing to do a picture history book of Madison Valley. This book will consist of roughly 200 images along with captions for each, and some introductory text as well. The MVHA board has agreed to assist Gary in writing this book and Gary has graciously acknowledged our support by donating all the royalties from this book to the MVHA. But we need your help. If you have any early day photos of people or happenings in Madison Valley, please contact Gary or any board member so these can be considered for inclusion in this book. Besides the standard photos, the images can also include artifacts and ephemera from the early days of Madison Valley.

As we continue to work on the Museum building, pass along any ideas you may about its organization to any board member. Let's keep the wagons rolling. Your Wagon Master, Otis Thompson.

Welcome to Membership The following have joined since the July 2009 issue. Please add to any membership list that 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.

Hughes, Robert R.(I)

2342 Paramount (253)350-0131

Enumclaw, WA 98022

Hutton, Philip (I) 2920 Sonaran Ct.

Richland, WA 99352-2176

Thomas, Eugene (Gene) (I)

2408 S. Morning Sun Ct. (208)412-3658

Nampa, ID 83686

Membership Update

2009 memberships have been arriving every day. 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. Memberships are \$5.00 for students, \$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for families, \$50.00 for Businesses and \$100.00 for Patron. If your memberships comes due before the next Wagon Tongue, you will find a member-ship 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 to MVHA at P.O. Box 747, 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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#### **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 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.

Longtime Madison Valley and Ennis resident, **Ruth M.(Matzick) Bouchard**, age 88, passed away Aug. 27, 2009 at Bozeman,Mt. Ruth was born to

Max Leo Matzick and Rosebud (Woodin) Matzick. Her father came to Montana in 1915 and he worked as a ranch hand, mechanic and construction worker when the road was being built over the Norris Hill. Ruth's mother, Rosebud Woodin, was born in Missouri, moved with her family in 1908 to Washington State and then she came to stay with her sister, Mrs. Nelson in 1917. That same year, Max met Rosebud Woodin, sister-in-law of J. Porter Nelson. She was working in Porter's garage office. They met under the Christmas tree in the old Woodman Hall and were married on May 20,1918. Max joined the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, WA and got as far as NewYork City, inroute to France, when the Armistice was signed. After being mustered out, Max returned to Ennis, where Ruth Marie was born on Aug.28 1920. Dr. Clancy, the resident physician, was in attendance. Ruth's father was then employed by the State Fish and Game Department and Ruth and her family moved to Somers where Ruth was raised at the fish hatchery on Flathead Lake. Ruth graduated from Ennis High School in 1938. In 1939 Ruth moved to Cut Bank. During WWII, she worked at Prince Rupert, BC for the U.S. Government. She later moved to Great Falls where she worked for Home Oil and Refinery and then was transferred to Spokane to work for Phillips Petroleum. She married Edmond Bouchard on August 29, 1959 at William's Lake, B.C. They then lived in Ogdensburg, New York. Upon retiring, they returned to Ennis in 1970. From the Sept. 3, 2009 *Madisonian* and The Madsion County Trails and Trials. pg 121 "Max Leo Matzick" by Ruth Matzick Bouchard.

Madison Valley and Ennis native, Elwin L Grady, 93, passed away Sept.24, 2009, in Great Falls, Mt Elwin was born to Orval and Florence Grady on May 3, 1916 in Ennis, Mt. Elwin's father, Orval, was born in Missouri and at the age of 15 left home. He worked for the Santa Fe Railroad in New Mexico and after receiving a badly broken leg in a train wreck, he decided to find another occupation. What brought him to Montana, daughter Hazel Grady Saunders.did not know but he had a cousin Johnnie Grady living here. Orval filed on a homestead on the Cameron Flats about 1905 and later sold it to Mr. Cameron. He spent most of his life working as a ranch hand on large ranches in the valley, namely the Tom Call ranch, Henry Buford, Cummingham & Biering and the Wrightman-Lawton. Orval married Florence A. Lester of Michigan in Virginia City, Mt. Of this union two children were born-Hazel Marie Grady Saunders (see Wagon Tongue April 2009) and Elwin Lester Grady. Florence died when Elwin was 11 months old and he was raised by his father's cousin, John and Lulu Grady.

(continued page 3)

Memories cont. from page 2

John Grady had purchased the old Hayden ranch east of Jeffers from John's uncle, John Hayden. They farmed there until Elwin was about 4 years old, selling the ranch to John Reints family and moving back to Jeffers. There they bought a house owned by A.W. Switzer. During the late 20's and early 30's, John Grady built and operated a tourist center in Jeffers which as at that time on the main road from Yellowstone Park to Ennis.

Elwin graduated from Ennis High School in 1934. He was in the U. S. Army from 1941-1945. He completed basic training at Fort Vancouver, Wash. He was a member of the 18th Engineers, Company D, and his battalion helped construct the Alaskan Highway (ALCAN). He also was stationed at Shemya Island, Alaska and Fort Belvoir, Va. In 1975, Elwin married Delphine "Del" Hume in Great Falls. Elwin was a retired Montana Power Company employee. From Madison County Pioneer Trails and Trials written by Hazel Grady Saunders and Elwin L. Grady Great Falls Tribune Sept.29,'09

**Jack Lueck** of Ennis passed away Sept. 13, 2009. Stories needed for a memory of Jack. Only a few small items found.

**Marlene M. (Rowe) Strong** of McAllister passed away Aug. 4, 2009. Stories welcomed if there are any of the Red Bluff Rowe family connections.

### **Ennis Woodman Hall and Initiation goat**

As many of our readers know, the former Economy Food Market on Main Street Ennis (now standing empty) was housed in the old Woodman Hall. This hall was the meeting place for an active fraternal group of the Modern Woodman of America many years ago.

The original Woodman group was founded by Joseph Cullen Root in 1883 in Lyons, Iowa. From the beginning Root had a plan for success. He wanted to create a fraternal benefit society that would protect families and their financial futures following the death of a breadwinner, offer more stability than other fraternals of that time and strengthen families, communities and the nation. During a Sunday sermon, Root heard his pastor tell a parable about the good that came from woodman clearing away the forest to built homes. communities and security for their families. This seemed the perfect symbol for his society. To express that his fraternal society would be ever changing to keep up with the times, he added Modern and finally added America to signify the society's patriotism and to honor our nation. Although the fraternal society no longer exists, the Modern Woodman of America is the nation's third largest fraternal benefit society in terms of assets. Many natives of the Madison Valley still own an

insurance policy form the Modern Woodman of America.

In the spring of 2009, the J. R. Pasley family donated the initiation goat form the Ennis Chapter of the Modern Woodman of America to the MVHA and the initiation goat is on display at at the temporary museum at 121 W. Main St. in Ennis. The last day that this museum will be open for the 2009 season will be October 23 during the Hunter's Feed. The initiation goat will be on display starting Memorial Day weekend 2010 when the MVHA opens its new museum at the permanent site at 447 Highway 287 4 miles West of Ennis toward Virginia City.

It is told that the Ennis version of the initiation goat for the Ennis Modern Woodman of America was made by Oscar Angle, former local blacksmith at Angle Hardware modeled after initiation goats made for the fraternal organization by DeMoulin Bros. & Company of Greenville, III. The Ennis goat has deer antlers instead of goat horns!!

These original goat carts, made by DeMoulin Bros., were used by Lodges and Fraternal Groups during initiation ceremonies. An inductee would ride the goat blindfolded while being pushed around the room by Lodge members. The DeMoulin Bros. first product was made in 1892 and quickly became a popular item, especially with Woodmen and Odd Fellow Lodges. These particular goats were made circa 1905 (later goats had metal horns, the original had real horns). The body is a solid block of wood, curved for comfortable seating. It measures 31" tail to head. The wood is covered with an actual wool pelt. The goat has a tail and button eyes. Hanging from either side are stirrups, There is also a strap around the neck with the manufacturers small brass plague riveted to it that reads "Manufactured by DeMoulin Bros. & Co., Greenville, III." brace, 21" long, is bolted underneath the body. This attached the goat to an iron wheel(s) so it could be pushed. The Ennis goat is wired with a magneto underneath the goat that is wired to iron hand hold about the head. At the appropriate time in the Lodge ceremony, while the candidates hands were on the hand holds. members would turn the crank on the magneto and

initiating new members!
The Goat is usually the first "stunt" introduced to a candidate; he is hoodwinked in anteroom and when he enters the Lodge room he is picked up and placed on the Goat and given a ride several times around the Lodge room and dismounted in front of the Chief Officer's Station, where he is presented for instructions.

give the initiation candidate a shock. This was just

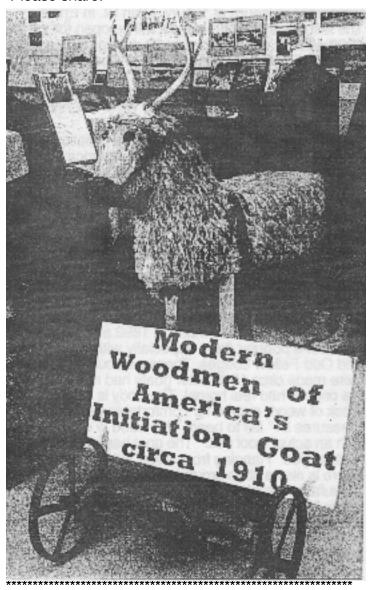
laughter" early Lodge Brothers engaged in when

one more feature that added to the "degree of

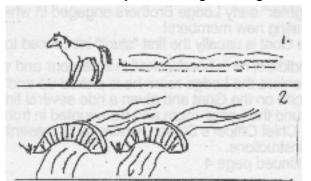
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The Wagon Tongue and the MVHA would like to have your stories about the Woodman Hall, the Woodman Fraternal Society and the initiation goat Please share.



Thanks to Kevin (Williams) Brenneke the Wagon Tongue has a new **Montana Trivia**. Name these Montana towns or cities. Answers and more Trivia in January 2010 Wagon Tongue



#### 2009 Museum Update

Our guest book at the museum is not an exact science because some of the volunteers forget to ask the guests to sign the book and some guests just do not like to sign guest books. And some sign but do not record where they are from. But with the facts that we do have, the MVHA museum for the 2009 summer saw a very busy tourist season. 800 or more guests visited and signed the guest book. Visitors from Montana led the list with 178 signed guests with 18 of those Montanans from our great community of Ennis. Washington State lead the way of the rest of the states with 72 visitors, Utah with 58, Idaho with 50 and California with 46. Thirty six other states that recorded quests had numbers from 26 down to 1. We had 16 guests from Canada, 5 from Australia, 3 from England, 2 from Germany, 2 from Ireland and one guest each from Chile, Taiwan and Rep. of Belerus, States with no guests recorded were Hawaii, Michigan, New Hampshire, Mississippi, New Jersey and Vermont. If you did not have the opportunity to visit the MVHA museum this summer, definitely plan to visit the new museum next summer.

Our museum and volunteers shared a lot of Montana and Madison Valley History with folks from all over and that is what museums are all about. Now we just have to figure out how to get folks from some of those states who didnt visit to come to our Madison Valley.

A great big thank you to all our many MVHA volunteers who helped keep the museum open on a regular basis this summer. 11 volunteers were needed each week for 3 hour time periods. Special thanks to Zoe Todd, Vern Thibideaux and Shirley Love who shared the scheduling duties doing a month each. Thanks to all the volunteers who signed up or said yes or returned the phone message when called by a scheduler. You made their day and made the day of a guest who stopped by the museum and found it open.

The two mile trip to Jeffers was the shortest Ennis High School football team road trip.

The oldest brand recorded in Madison County was George Thexton's."Otis Thompson's dad always told Duane Thexton as a little kid that GT stood for 'Grandma Thexton', when it actually stood for 'George Thexton'? Duane actually believed him for a little while." Thexton quote provided by Duane Thexton

Fort Benton was the nearest US Government Military protection for the Madison Valley settlers in 1867. History Tidbits provided by Don Black

Bear Creek Schoolhouse celebrates landmark anniversary by Jan Smith MVHA member

The historic Bear Creek Schoolhouse celebrates 100 years of service to the Bear Creek and Cameron communities this year.

The original log schoolhouse was replaced in 1909 with the present frame building, built by Amos Storey, the first homesteader in the Bear Creek area. A testimony to Mr. Storey's building skill, the schoolhouse still stands and according to local builder, Larry Brown, is still sound, though in need of some vital repairs.

The last classes held in the Bear Creek Schoolhouse ceased in 1942, but the building has remained in regular use by the local community for dances, card parties, and annual Christmas parties as well as a meeting place for local organizations.

For the past year, the Cameron Community Club, which purchased the school and land in 1955, has been working to provide the necessary restoration. Thanks to Don Neville (MVHA member) and longtime Community Club president, Jim Nelson (MVHA member), a new heating system was installed this spring. Present and past residents have contributed hard-earned dollars to help with the restoration process and to date the foundation has been repaired, wood skirting replaced, and a new coat of paint applied. Future plans include replacing the old windows and repairing the cupola as well as building a more efficient entry deck on the front of the building. However the extended community's help will be needed to complete these projects. Cameron Community Club has obtained 501c3 status so all donations are tax deductible.

In celebration of its 100 years, the CCC had a birthday party and dance at the school on September 19, 2009

Editor's note: According to Jimmy Spray's <u>Early Days of the Madison Valley</u> the original Bear Creek Schoolhouse (the log schoolhouse replaced in 1909) was established in 1891, west of the Kilner ranch in Bear Creek. There were 10 pupils and the first teacher was Pearl Home. This makes the Bear Creek School actually 118 years old and quite a piece of history.

#### Old timer visits county seat

George S. Watkins of Jeffers was a visitor to Virginia City on Tuesday. Mr. Watkins is one of the oldest settlers of the Madison Valley, having located there in 1864. He was born in Missouri on Feb. 14,1837. He engaged in mining in Alder gulch for a short time after entering Montana territory, later freighting and then farming. At one time he was the owner of 4,000 acres of land in the Madison Valley, 1,000 of those acres now being covered by the waters of the Madison Lake. Later he divided the remainder of his land between

his four children, also his cattle and horses. Mr. Watkins says when he first knew the Madison River in the early 60's fishing was much better than now, it being an easy matter to fill a seamless sack with fish within an hour or two....For his almost 91 years, Mr. Watkins is a remarkably hearty man. As yet he has not found it necessary to use glasses. *Madisonian* Sept. 9, 1927

#### From the Mail Box

This summer the MVHA received a framed photo of the Ennis High School Class of 1933 with all the classmates except the first name of one, named from Bob Hughes. A thank you and a copy of the Wagon Tongue were sent and this letter was recently received from Bob Hughes October 1, 2009

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Madison Valley History Association

Thank you for sending the membership application which is enclosed with a check to cover my association membership.

I do plan to attend the Ennis all school reunion in August of 2010. At age 94, my two wonderful helpers (daughter and granddaughter) will be with me.

Also thank you for coming up with the unidentified first name for the Baker girl classmate in my 1933 graduation photo. Her name is indeed Madeline. I would like to obtain addresses for Madeline and/or any of the 1933 class that is still alive. Since it is probably not in the province of the MVHA to keep or supply such information, is it possible you could send to me the name and address of somebody I could contact that would have this information?

My very best wishes to all of you and I hope the people of Ennis appreciate the important job of community service your group is doing.

R.R. (Bob) Hughes 2342 Paramount Dr.

Enumclaw, WA 98022

Email: hugh875@comcast.net

Editors note: If you have any information to help Bob with his request, contact Bob directly or give information to the MVHA and we will get it to him.

MVHA long time member and ardent supporter, Deb Townshend, has authored another book. It is entitled WOMEN-OF-THE-WILD Hiking Club WOW Trail Travelers-1985-2009. Deb has generously donated a copy to the MVHA museum library and you may see and read it there. It is a pictorial history of the hiking group that Deb, Ruth Haak (MVHA member) and Jan Harris started with their first hike July 1985 up Sheep Creek Trail.

If you would like a copy of this book, you may send \$20 which includes Shipping and Handling to Deb and she will mail you a book.

Deb Townshend

409 Townsend Ave. New Haven, CT 0651

#### For Your Reading Pleasure

Since the MVHA and author, Gary Forney, have started on a project to do a pictorial book of the Madison Valley, you might take some time and look at books already published by Arcadia Publishing. www.arcadiapublishing.com

<u>Images of America Red Lodge</u> by John Clayton and the Carbon County Historical Society

Looking Ahead

November 19 4:00pm monthly meeting First Madison Valley Bank downstairs meeting room Program: Dr Jeff Safford speaking about all sorts of interesting items in the history of Sterling.

December Date and time TBA Christmas Social January 21 4:00pm First Madison Valley Bank Downstairs meeting room. Program Jacqui Marotta, Woman of the Bozeman Trail.

Walk of Names The MVHA will be doing the handicapped ramp and any other walkways around the new museum with boards engraved with donor names and brands. A board with a name engraved will be \$40 and adding a brand will be an additional \$10. The order blank for the Walk of Names is not ready for this issue but will appear in the January 2010 issue. Be thinking of names you will want on a board, about how to honor a deceased family member or how to acknowledge a long standing Madison Valley family name or series of names on this Walk of Names. This will be your opportunity to be a part of the history of the Madison Valley. Stay tuned for details.

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

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

## Madison Valley History Association, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Otis Thompson Vice President: Jimmy Carlson

Treasurer: Neil Kent Secretary: Duane Thexton

Director: Larry Love
Director: Smitty Overstreet

Director: John White

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 month10:00am First Madison Valley Bank conference room The Wagon Tongue will be published quarterly. Next issue

will be January 2010. Editor: Shirley Love

Contributing editors: John White Story of our Name about the Modern Woodman and the Early DeMoulin Goat riding Trike from internet research

Ruth Matzick Bouchard from Madison County

Trails and Trials page 121

Madisonian Sept. 3, 2009 obituary of Ruth Matzick Bouchard

Sept.9, 1927 Old Timer Vists County Seat

Hazel Grady Saunders from Madison County Trails
and Trials Charles Orval Grady pg. 64

Elwin L. Grady from Madison County Trails and

Trials John M Grady pg 64

Great Falls Tribune Sept. 29,'09 Obituary for Elwin L. Grady Jan Smith Bear Creek schoolhouse celebrates landmark anniversary