

info@mvhm.us



www.mvhm.us

MUSSELHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

Annual Meeting Sunday, March 14, 2021

The annual meeting of the museum board will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the basement of the museum. At this time election of officers and board members will be conducted. This meeting is open to the public as are all board meetings. The museum board meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM in the museum basement.

The museum is open each year from May through September from 1:00 to 5:00 PM each day.

Membership dues are due and payable on February 15 every year. The initial membership is \$20.00 and the annual renewal is \$10.00 per year. A personal lifetime membership may be purchased for \$150 and business lifetime memberships are \$200.

Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Mission Statement

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum is a local, non-profit museum open to the public. It exists to preserve the history and heritage of Montana and the Musselshell Valley for present and future generations. The museum is a monument of our past and our heritage, and we are proud of it. Established in 1972, the museum is a living institution dedicated to preserving the story of our region.

The museum shall promote an understanding of appreciation of the history of Montana and the lower Musselshell Valley by collection, preserving, and providing a broad access to the historical resources maintained by the museum, library and archives. The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum's efforts in all areas are dedicated to high standards of scholarship and preservation.



New Blackfeet Native American Teepee

SCHEDULED EVENTS 2021 SEASON

Opening Day Saturday, May 1
Annual Yard Sale Saturday, June 5
Closing Day Sunday, September 26
Christmas Stroll Event
 Tentatively Saturday, December 4

Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Annual Newsletter *Spring 2021*

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Roundup, MT 59072

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Website: www.mvhm.us

Find us on Facebook at:
Musselshell Valley Historical Museum



NEW TEEPEE

An interesting and very popular new exhibit for visitors at the museum this season was an authentic Native American teepee. Local artist, Joe Trakimas, painted the exterior of the teepee in authentic Blackfeet Native American design. Authentic artifacts were displayed inside including a campfire with utensils, a hide rug, a beaded breast plate, and other appropriate Native American items.



Joe Trakimas

DIORAMA

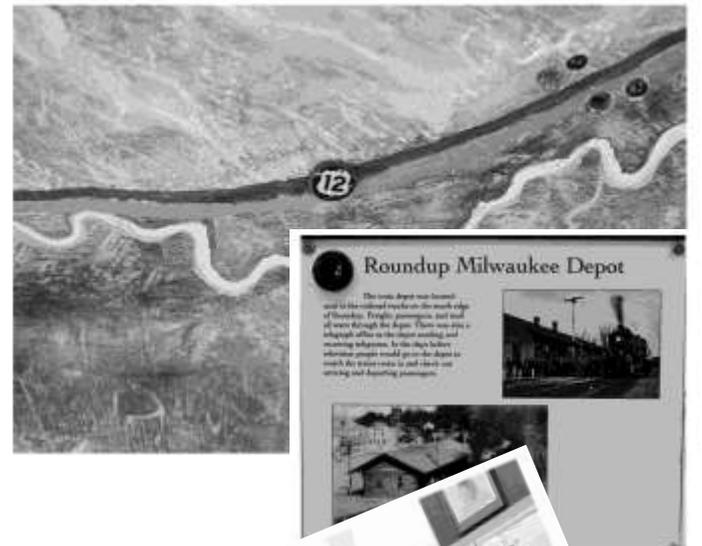
By Dale Alger

What an amazing project! It took a long time, but it was well worth it. The 3D (three dimensional) diorama covers Musselshell County. It has many lights that will light up when you push a button on the panels around the outside edge of the diorama. If you want to see where the fairgrounds are located, just push the button on the Fairgrounds panel and a light on the diorama shows you the location of the Fairgrounds. There are many important locations around the county. For example, one button turns on all the lights of the public cemeteries. Another shows you oil wells or a particular ranch. It is pretty fascinating to see. Most of the museum board members helped in the research of which locations to include. We tried to find or take photos for each of the locations. Because the diorama is built to scale, you are able to see the differences in elevation throughout the county.

Meristem Services, L.C. built the diorama. The actual builder was Thomas Dunning with help from his assistant Molly Ohm. They did an amazing amount of work getting it set up in the museum, spending many hours and making several trips from Bozeman to finish the diorama.

The diorama was made possible by significant monetary help from the Signal Peak Community Foundation and the Musselshell Valley Community Foundation. We appreciate their assistance. We also thank other donors who helped fund this project.

Mark your calendars, so that when the museum opens in May, you can view the diorama and let it enlighten your appreciation of what we have in Musselshell County.



Photos from top to bottom

Completed Musselshell County Diorama

Close up views of the diorama surface and a panel.

Board member Gary Thomas watches as finishing touches are applied.

Thomas Dunning and assistant Molly Ohm.

JOHANNA (BANDEROB) TRAVIS

1917 Six Weeks Teacher's Training Graduate

(Contributed by Kathy (Carlson) Beslanowitch from her grandmother's autobiography.)



I attended high school at Billings High School (BHS) from 1913 until 1916. During this time I stayed with several different families where I worked for my board and room. I walked to school. Billings was small then. The BHS set out by itself. Montana Avenue was the Main Street. My senior year of high school, I attended Central High at Worden and graduated from there June 12, 1917.

I had in the past summers worked in the kitchen and dining room of the Huntley Project Experiment Station to earn extra money, however, this summer would be different. A large shortage of teachers had been caused by a great influx of homesteaders and the war. Many teachers left their teaching jobs and answered the country's need for clerical workers. My cousin, Gert McDonald and a friend, Ethel Fricke and I attended a six weeks teacher's training course at Rosebud Camp School, along the edge of East Rosebud Lake, near Alpine. The school was set up by two teachers from Billings. Students lived in groups in 12' x 14' x 7' army tents furnished with a cottage comfort stove and army cots, in what was known as "tent avenue". There was a large log building which served as a dining hall and an indoor class room. We all arrived at Columbus, Montana by train, from there we were taken 40 miles south by a caravan of cars to East Rosebud Camp. It cost each student \$75.00 for the six weeks - this covered tents,

transportation from Columbus, meals and many types of recreation. We brought clothes, bedding and books. When we finished our schooling we received a second grade teaching certificate that qualified us to teach in Montana. I enjoyed the camp a lot and the mountain scenery was beautiful; also had chipmunks who shared our tents. The school was different, but teachers from there received high ratings on their work. I took my first teaching job the fall of 1917 at the Castle Rock School at Newton Grove, south of the town of Musselshell. Gert and Ethel taught in the same area. Gert taught the Pine View School and Ethel taught the Twin Butte School. We all arrived at our teaching destination by riding with the mail carrier, who traveled by team and wagon. I boarded with Kobels, they built a small room on for me, large enough for a bed and dresser. I was paid \$75.00 per month for teaching and \$40.00 per month for board and room. I taught 8 grades with some of the students almost as old as I was. There were two large log community halls, one at Newton Grove, and other at Pine View. There were dances, box socials, and meetings at the halls. One time I went with some other young people to a dance at Pine View. Donald Dunbar took his wagon and team. He decided to cut across country to save time getting there. Suddenly the team dropped over the edge of a cut bank, the wagon did not go over. We had to unhitch the horses and roll the wagon back by hand and re hitch the horses so we could go on.

In 1918 I taught the Maels School just east of where we lived later (near the Ethel Post Office and Store). I took a train from Billings to Roundup. I had to change trains at Slayton (near Lavina). We missed connections with the other train so I stayed over night at Slayton. I walked across a tressel before daylight the next morning to catch the other train to Roundup. I was too late to be picked up with the other teachers, so the school board had a taxi bring me out to my teaching job. The taxi driver told me since I didn't know how to drive through the gates, I would have to open the gates - 13 of them. I remember when we came past where John and Mary Jones lived, they were harvesting a wonderful garden and had many large piles of carrots the length of the garden. I was paid \$90.00 per month for teaching and paid \$35.00 a month for board. Once again I taught all 8 grades and had some students about as old as I was. I woke up one morning where I was boarding to find the lady of the house brushing snow off of my bed and sweeping up snow on the floor. Snow had blowed through the crack in the wall during a snow storm. She was very much afraid I would move out, but I wasn't that upset. Half way through the school year the school house burned from a roof fire. We finished the year in the house of the school board chairman, who happened to be John Travis. A new school house was built on the corner of his homestead. Johnny and I were married February 20, 1919. We lived in the "little log cabin on the claim" built on the 160 acre homestead he had taken out in 1911.

(John and Johanna endured the depression and drought years and managed to buy vacated homesteads surrounding them. They remained on the ranch they put together until their deaths; John in 1977 and Johanna in 1985. Their only child, Eleanor and her husband, George Carlson also devoted their lives to making a living ranching.)

FIREARMS

The museum has a number of displays that include firearms. We have a military display, a mountain man display, a buffalo hunters display, an American Indian - Cavalry display, along with a general historical firearms display. Each display contains firearms that would have been used for that particular endeavor. Along with various other items included in each display, the viewer gets a comprehensive vision of the past.



NEW Dress Shop



New Construction

Three new display rooms have been constructed in an unused portion of the museum parking lot. One room houses a ladies' dress shop with a large collection of vintage ladies' attire. Another room contains a large collection of the tools that were used to settle this valley. The display for the third room has yet to be determined.



Milwaukee Railroad Depot



Melstone Main Street

Membership List

New Members

Eichele, Brenda
Gallentine, Merle
Hawkins, Susan
Leslie, E. Herbert
Percell, Mary
Watson, Mark L.

Business Names

1st Security Bank
Allison Saddlery
Busy Bee Café
C Brewer
Elite Towing
Elite Tune and Lube
Key Insurance
Lee Farms LLC
Lions Club
McCleary Distributing
MT Historical Society
Musselshell Valley Equipment
Picchioni's IGA
Progressive Club
Rotary Club
Roundup Record-Tribune
Signal Peak Coal
VFW
Women's Club

Individual Names

Acton, Aimee & Michael
Alger, Dale & Tomi
Allen, Roberts
Anderson, Sharon
Armstrong, Brad & Renee
Arthur, Anne
Backstrom, Jeanette
Barta, Dan
Bartos, Jean
Bedford, Henry & Kay
Bethke, William G.
Betts, Elizabeth
Bissonette, Adele L.
Blum, Rose Emily
Brown, Dennis
Brown, Mickey & Phyllis
Bunnell, Judith
Burch, Anita
Burnett, Geri
Casey, Susanne

Casper, Bob
Christensen, Trish
Clark, Shirley
Clement, Michelle
Cooper, Madeline
Corn, Marie
Crawford, Tim & Kathy
Dahl, Susan
DeGoes, Arlene E.
DeMaio, Bonnie
Doneker, Tom
Durgin, Richard & Andrea
Edwards, Bill
Edwards, Vivian
Egeler, Robert & Joyce
Eickhoff, Rhea
Eiselein, Beverly
Eiselein, Greg
Eliasson, Gary
Eliasson, Jay
Eppers, George & Darlene
Erdie, Karen Jo
Evelo, Jane
Ewen, Jim
Fisher, Alan J.
Fletcher, James
Fritz, Evan
Gebhardt, Kelly & Darlene
Gerrard, Pat
Gjerde, A. Russell
Glauser, Pearl
Goffena, Mike & Cheryl
Gouine, Diane
Hagstrom, Dave & Roberta
Hamill, Janet
Harper, Roger
Hazelton, Natalie
Hinman, Susan Wetzel
Hodges, Nancy
Holloway, Bruce
Ihrig, David & Kimberly
Jones, Dave
Jorgenson, Marge
Juhl, Will & Georgia
Keney, Patrick
Kepple, Gay
Kilby, Gordon
Komar, Clara M.
Kozwlski, Albert & Jan
Lang, Delinda
Lekse, Larry



Lynt, Sharon
Mackay, Bill
Majerus, Gil
Marmon, Donna
Maxwell, Michael
McCready, Louise
McRae, Flora Cambra
Mihalovich, Richard
Mihalovich, Wilma
Miller, Dr. Bob & Jean
Milton, Bill & Dana
Mitchell, William J.
Moody, Brien & Debra
Moore, Linda
Moses, Steve C.
Murphy, Pat & Lee Anne
Parrott, Donald
Parrott, Doug & Shirley
Parrott, Jeffery
Parrott, Joseph
Peterson, Sharon Mercado
Picchioni, Linda
Reighard, Doug
Reighard, Margaret
Reikofski, Mary
Robertson, Jerry
Ross, Bette
Rutan, Dave
Sackett, Gary
Samuels, Robbie
Samuelson, Jessica
Satterthwait, Ernie
Schladweiler, Jim & Rita
Scribner, Curt
Sloan, Edith
Smith, Loris
Smith, Thomas S.
Snook, Dwayne & Wendy
Spek, Darlene E.
Steele, Shirley
Stevens, Tim
Continued on next page

Status Report

On Teddy Blue Abbott Monument

By Linda Yount

Membership continued

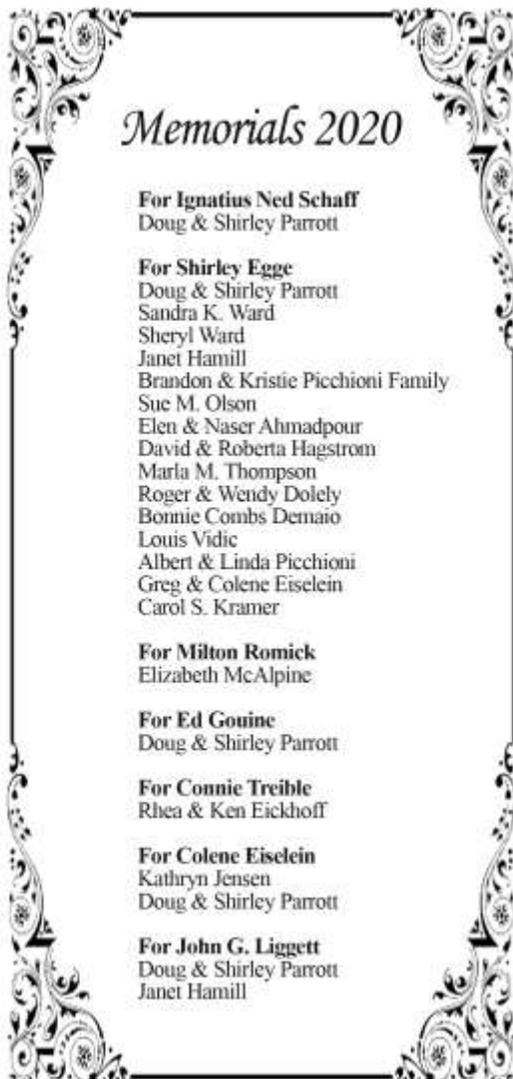
Teini, Dallas & Cecelia
Thackeray, Thomas
Thomas, Gary & Debra
Thurber, Jack
Toogood, Russel & Louise
Unterseher, Peggy
Vandeberg, Daniel J.
Van Dyke, Randy
Walker, Agnes
Watkins, Rick & Jacqueline
Watson, Anne
Webber, Jeri
Whitmen, Kathleen
Winkler, Kenny
Witzel, Nan
Wood, Wilbur & Elizabeth
Worthen, Eleanor M.
Yount, Linda

As most of you know, the Teddy Blue Abbott Monument Committee unexpectedly lost a key member of the committee last fall due to a tragic accident. Between coping with that tremendous loss, and the pandemic, progress on the monument has slowed.

In early July, the clay model of the sculpture was transported to Lander, Wyoming by Eagle Bronze for creation of the mold and pouring the bronze. The anticipated completion date for that work was December 31, 2020. However, Eagle Bronze has also been plagued by the pandemic and person family issues of some employees thereby delaying work on that end.

A local contractor has offered his services at no cost to the project for the dirt work necessary to prepare the location for placement of the monument and landscaping. Another has offered no-cost services for the concrete work. A landscaper is working on a plan for that portion of the project. Landscaping will be primarily xeriscape in an effort to keep water away from the monument to the extent possible. The committee is still hopeful for an early summer dedication of the monument.

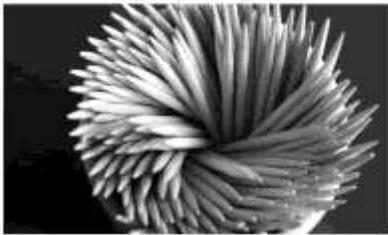
Donations are still being gratefully accepted. Checks may be sent to Musselshell Valley Historical Museum (MVHM), our fiscal sponsor, c/o 320 4th Street West, Roundup 59072 with the notation TBA Monument on the memo line.



Clay model of the Teddy Blue Abbott Monument

A RATHER UNIQUE COLLECTION

We received a collection from a museum member in New York state. A rather unique collection of "Tooth Pick Holders". They are now on display at the museum. There are a large number of holders. The holders are metal, others are pressed, and some are cut glass. The display offers a wide variety of holders.



The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

is supported by donations. By becoming a member, you join a growing list of community spirited individuals and businesses ensuring the long-term success of this community historical treasure.

Simply clip this form with your scissors, fill out the requested information and mail it to the address below. You can select annual membership or life membership for an individual. Becoming a member helps us preserve the history of our region and brings you our annual newsletter of activities and interesting historical information.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, and Zip _____

- Life Membership \$150
- Business Membership \$200
- Individual Annual Membership \$20
- Annual Renewal Membership \$10

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