



CRAZY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM
P.O. Box 83 • Big Timber, MT 59011
406.932.5126
www.crazymountainmuseum.com
e-mail: cmmuseum@mtintouch.net

The New Breeze

Fall 2016

The Sheep Wagon of Big Timber

The story of this sheep wagon starts in the vo-ag department of the old high school. Mr. L.L. Buchanan was the teacher and he thought it would be a good woodworking project for his students to build a sheep wagon from the ground up.

After the completion of the wagon, it was discovered that there was no way to get it out of the shop, because it was too tall. Nobody thought about getting the sheep wagon out of there because they had always taken big stuff in and out through the door, as the mechanics class repaired tractors, cars and trucks there.

So it went along and along and no-one could figure out how to get the wagon out, until one day there was a big boom during the noon hour! Mr. Buchanan had decided to enlarge the door with several sticks of dynamite, and then they had more than enough room to get it out. Probably an Army tank could have gone through.... Other than a few panes of broken glass out front, there was no harm done.

Mr. Shump, the science teacher, loved to tell this story to every new class that came in.

This sheep wagon was then sold to Art Grosfield and brought to their Dugout Ranch, under the crazy Mountains. It was used by shepherders for several years, and Franklin spent much of the year living in it while tending sheep during his high school years.

Ingvald Halland, a fine Norwegian who lived up in the hills near Art and Mabel, put a tin roof on the sheep wagon in the late 40's or early 50's.

The traditional covering on sheep wagons was canvas, but the trouble was that a bad hail storm could ruin it. Ingvald spent a long time with a roll of tin, laying it on the ground, cutting it to length and pounding the seams. Franklin remembers he and his Dad helping Ingvald get that slippery and awkward covering on the sheep wagon and fastened down.

The sheep wagon has spent the last 40 years in the brush behind the house on lower Swamp Creek. Our children would play in there and we strung Christmas lights out to it originally, but it was too scary for them to sleep there overnight.

And now it is going to town and will spend its days not too far from where it was built.

Marilyn Grosfield

In a visit with Paul Westervelt, SGHS class of '42, we learned that the wagon had been built and removed from the vo-ag department before he started high school in 1938. He thinks that it was built around in the early 30's.



If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please let us know.

From the Director's Desk



It's been another great year. Approximately 2000 guests have visited the museum this year. The docents were wonderful. Their stories and memories made our museum come alive to the visitors. Catherine Bainter's passing was such a loss. She enjoyed escorting the guests and telling them about the history behind many of our displays. She was a treasure.

I've enjoyed meeting many Norwegians and others who came to Big Timber to research their family history. Our bio-files help fill in blanks for many families. A volunteer keeps up the files with clippings from *The Pioneer*. However many of the files are lacking information regarding family who moved or important events that occurred outside of Big Timber. If you have copies of weddings, birth announcements, even funeral notices, we'd like to add them to the bio-files. Photographs would be wonderful too. Please look through your family records, we'd be grateful for anything you'd like to donate.

By next year the website crazymountainmuseum.com will have basic family history about the early homesteaders. We have a few articles posted on the webpage, items that can be purchased online and a donation page. On the donation page one can also sign up or renew their membership. Check the website every so often for new information.

Thank you to Nancy Snyder, Assistant Director, the docents and other volunteers who have made this year so memorable.

Jill Lavold
Director

Our Board of Directors

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The ad below appeared in
the *Big Timber Pioneer* January 1943

SHEEPMEN!

See Johnson's Store, Mellville, for
Canvas Sheep Wagon Covers
any size or weight supplied
Also PRESERVO \$2.95 gal.
for waterproofing and mildew proofing
canvas will double the life of the canvas



Montana's Whiskey Women Female Bootleggers During Prohibition

In November 1916, Montana voters approved a referendum for the statewide prohibition of alcohol. Montana's influential and well organized branch of the Woman's temperance Union had led the effort to ban the manufacture and sale of liquor. The passage of the new law, which went into effect at the end of 1918, reflected the growing influence of female reform in Montana. Not all Montana women supported temperance, however, and ironically, for some women, the ban of liquor created new and lucrative – albeit illegal – economic opportunities. We all know this law led to the illegal production and sale of bootleg alcohol. Enforcing the law in Montana proved nearly impossible because of the wide open spaces and the state's remoteness.

Bootlegging was generally carried out by the masculine persuasion but proved to provide a lucrative income maker for women and widows supporting their families.

Nora Gallagher was a Butte widow who brewed in her kitchen in order to purchase Easter outfits for her five children.

Eighty year old Lavinia Gilman ran a three hundred gallon still.

Mary Ann Moriarity washed cloths for miners residing in a boarding house and delivered "hooch" hidden in the returned clean clothes for fifty cents a pint and two dollars a gallon.

"Birdie" Brown, an African American woman from Missouri who homesteaded in eastern Fergus County, made home brew that locals described as the "best in the country". Tragically, Brown died from burns she received when her still exploded in 1933.

"The Bootleg Lady of Glacier Park" was Josephine Doody, a former dance hall girl. The Great Northern Railway trains would stop at the Doody siding and order moonshine by blowing the train whistle. Each toot would be for a gallon of hooch. Josephine would deliver it by boat crossing the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Her gravestone reads, "Josephine Doody, October 16, 1853 - January 16, 1936. The Bootleg Lady of Glacier Park"

The end of prohibition in 1933 ended the economics of manufacturing kitchen hooch. • From *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*



CRAZY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM MEMORIALS



In Memory of Agnes Viets

Doug & Jane Lowry
Norm & Lorraine Starr
Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer
Jim & Shirley Esp

In Memory of Albert "Berdie" Schott

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Alice Luttschwager

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Barbara Strobel

Duane & Diane Tronrud
Doug & Jane Lowry
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Ben Berg

Jim & Shirley Esp
Gerald & Jan Hauge
Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

In Memory of Betty Bowers

Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Betty Faw

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer
Marlyn & Ruth Drange

In Memory of Bill Mothershead

Ted & Jane Clark

In Memory of Billie Johnson

Duane & Diane Tronrud
Doug & Jane Lowry
Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Bob Johnson

Doug & Jane Lowry

In Memory of Bob Linse

Sox Ullman

In Memory of Bob Wilhide

Leslie Crismond

In Memory of Byron Manley

Connie Bradbury
Julie Bowden

In Memory of Catherine Bainter

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer
Joe and Shirley Bowden
Duane & Diane Tronrud

Kevin & Shirley Halvorson

Robin Nelson

Mary Underwood

Craig Jones

Kevin Jones

Keith Jones

Ron & Kathleen Thomas & Families

Carl & Margaret Sloheim & Families

Dan & Diana Plaggemeyer

Harry & Linda Berg

Greg & Peggy Meier & Family

Don & Penny Pearce

Rita Esp

Laurence & Elaine Allestad

Allan Laubach & Diane Mier

Helen Pedula

Jim & Shirley Esp

Ginny & Darrell Rathkamp

Jean Duffy

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Clarence Rostad

Jim & Shirley Esp

Duane and Diane Tronrud

Louitha Clayton

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Julie Bowden

In Memory of David Anderson

Bill & Michelle Carroccia

Connie Bradbury

In Memory of David Martinz

Doug & Jane Lowry

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Dennis Moos

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Norm & Lorraine Starr

Gary & Donna Harkness (Fjare Cabin)

In Memory of Diane Gibson

Paula Curtin (Raw Deal Run)

In Memory of Ellen Yost

Doug & Jane Lowry

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

In Memory of Elmer Schott

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Erma Ferguson

Doug & Jane Lowry

In Memory of Hap & Carl Jones

Leslie Crismond

In Memory of Jane Clark

Evelyn Casterline

Richard & Luanne Lavold

Scotty & Barbara Keim

Richard & Becky Sidwell

Herbert Holen

In Memory of Jennie Luttschwager

Doug & Jane Lowry

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Jim & Shirley Esp

In Memory of Jerry Mehus

Connie Bradbury

In Memory of Jim Pile

Doug & Jane Lowry

Louitha Clayton

In Memory of Joe Stensaas

John & Sylvia Drivdahl

In Memory of John Farthing

Doug & Jane Lowry

In Memory of Justin Todd

Doug & Jane Lowry

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Marlyn & Ruth Drange

Sharon Mosness

In Memory of Kenny Osborne

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Kenny Thompson

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

Jim & Shirley Esp

Helen Pedula

Gerald & Jan Hauge

In Memory of Kip Croskrey

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Linda McKay

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Mark Murphy

Lindsay Murphy

In Memory of Ozzie Nevin

Connie Bradbury

In Memory of Rich Counter

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Maggie Meredith & John Finn

Scott Meredith

JoAnn & Mike Meredith

Norm & Lorraine Starr

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

Marion Beley

Bonnie Conner

Helen Pedula

Gerald & Jan Hauge

Jim & Shirley Esp

John & Diane Ronneberg

Gerald & Pat Latraverse

Tracey Kinney

Sharon Mosness

In Memory of Robert Martinz

Doug & Jane Lowry

Julie Bowden

In Memory of Roger Engle

Mary Jo Engle

In Memory of Sid Boe

John Aalgaard

In Memory of Steve Johnson

Norm & Lorraine Starr

Jonathan & Joan VanDaveer

Marion Beley

Julie Bowden

In Memory of William "Bill" Officer

Dr. Rita Officer

In Honor of Rita Esp

Jean Perkins

What's Happening

For many years we have wanted to acquire a sheep wagon for display at the Museum. This fall we have been fortunate to have two sheep wagons offered to us. Franklin and Marilyn Grosfield and Don Tetlie have offered to donate their sheep wagons to the Museum. We hope to get them cleaned up, moved and ready for viewing by Memorial Day. Thank you Franklin and Marilyn Grosfield and Don Tetlie. Also thanks to Steve Aller and Ole Oiestad for your time and effort on this project.

We are enclosing end of year donation forms for you to use if you choose. We have many projects in the works and the desperate need for money is always there. The Grosfield sheep wagon needs new wheels and we have received anonymous donations of \$1,000 to cover the cost of construction of two wheels. That is a necessity right now in order to move it. However the other two will also need to be replaced soon.

Curators Elli and Jean are starting the winter work of planning new exhibits, dealing with new accessions and major artifact organization. The coal mining exhibit has been returned to Western Heritage Center. It will be replaced by an exhibit featuring John Frost, a deputy sheriff in Sweet Grass County in 1915. Come see the exhibit. You may be surprised!

Moving the homestead cabin will also require more financing. We did very well with the Raw Deal Run, however that covers only about 1/3 of the estimated cost to move and relocate. Volunteer help will certainly cut down on the cost, but we will still need financial help. Our director and assistant have created a Friends of the Museum group who have been very helpful with activities this past year. We are looking forward to working with them again next season. Thank you "Friends", for all you do.

The Woman's Club has generously donated money to purchase new lighting in the Exhibit Hall and Archeological cabinets. Jon VanDaveer and Norm Duncan have started replacing the ceiling lights. What a difference a light makes!!!! Thank you Woman's Club for your interest and help.

The Delta Kappa Gamma is working with the Museum to create trunk shows for the schools. The trunks are based on the book Historic Crossroads by Jack Hines and the seven paintings he did that are on display in the museum. They are generously funding the project. Thank you *Delta Kappa Gamma*.

Sweet Grass Museum Society Membership 2017

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Circle Level of Membership:

FOUNDER \$100 DONOR \$30 GENERAL \$15

Mail your check and this form to: Sweet Grass Museum Society · PO Box 83 · Big Timber, MT 59011

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Your dues keep the Museum open.

Thank you for your membership and Donations!

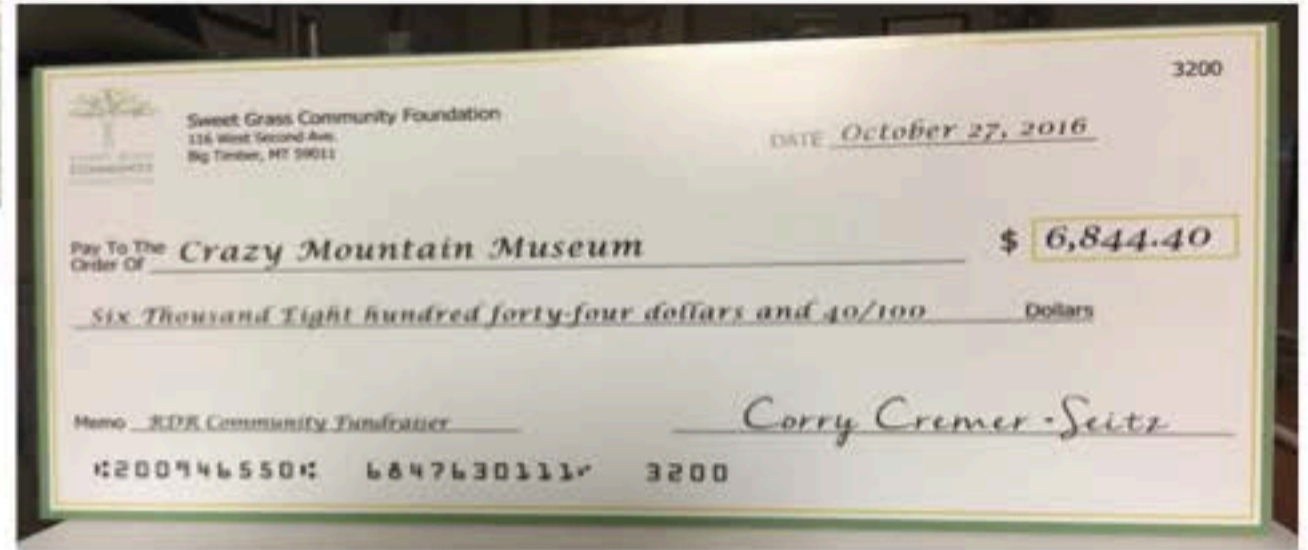
The Sweet Grass Museum Society is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Fjare Homestead Cabin

Thank you for everyone that supported the
Raw Deal Run.

The funds will be used to move the
Fjare Homestead Cabin



Raw Deal Run Donors

Loren Behling
Julie Bowden
Jean Chapel
Mimi Cremer
Ole & Helen Oiestad
Frank & Judy Cosgriff
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Jan Counter
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John Officer
3 Anonymous

**What happens in Sweet Grass County
Stays in Sweet Grass County**



***"Your donation is an investment to preserve our
county's heritage."***

Enclosed is my end of year gift:

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Check out our WebSite



www.crazymountainmuseum.com

2017 dues are due.
Dues can be mailed to: Sweet Grass Museum Society • Box 83 • Big Timber, MT 59011

Sweet Grass Museum Society
P.O. Box 83 • Big Timber, MT 59011
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