

# Upper Swan Valley Historical Society

## NEWS & NOTES



JULY 2020

DISCOVERY—COLLECTION—PRESERVATION—EDUCATION

VOL. XIV. NO. 2

### Patterns of Travel in the Swan Valley

By Steve Lamar

Travel patterns in the upper Swan Valley have changed greatly over the years. We have become accustomed to traveling to Missoula in the comfort of our motorized vehicles in less than two hours. Imagine the hardship of the homestead families who rode for five long days on a wagon with a team of horses to make the same journey on rough dirt roads. Picture the strength and endurance of the hunters and gatherers who first arrived on the trails leading to Swan Valley.

Early Indian people traveled by foot, and later by horseback along game trails that became more established over time. The Jocko Pass trail was a major east-west route that passed south of Seeley Lake.



Fall horse drive before the Swan Valley highway was paved. Doris Haasch is the rider on the left.

Joe Papke photo.

Other well-traveled trails over the Mission Mountains include Piper-Crow Pass and Mollman Pass among others. Another well-used trail followed the valley bottom with feeder trails branching off to continue to the east, eventually leading to the bison hunting grounds of the Rocky Mountain Front.

Prior to the 1890s, roads into the upper Swan Valley were nonexistent. That changed in 1892 when Ovando trapper and surveyor, Charley Young and a crew of five men chopped out the original Swan River Road. The old wagon road led from Ovando to Woodworth then over the hill to Salmon Lake, where it followed the Clearwater River northward along the chain of lakes, over the Summit Divide, continued to the Gordon Ranch, and headed northward to Lion Creek. This crude road with multiple high stumps took the path of least resistance with many twists and turns to avoid large trees and other obstacles.

Permanent settlement in the upper Swan Valley came relatively late beginning with B.B. Holland in the late 1890s. Primarily settlement hap-

### Dan Maloughney Valued Volunteer

Dan Maloughney was a 40-year volunteer and Medical Chief at the Swan Valley Emergency Services (SVES). He passed away April 30, 2020 from a brain hemorrhage.



Dan was remembered fondly by friends, family and the SVES team in the May 14 *Seeley Swan Pathfinder*. Tory Matthew, assistant medical chief, said, Dan had “a heart the size of Montana, always the first one to laugh.”

Dan was born in Butte in 1949 and grew up there. He attended Northern Montana College where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in industrial education. This led to a teaching position at Montana State Prison and a 40-year career with the Montana Department of Corrections, *Pathfinder Swan Song*.

Dan was one of the original founders of the Swan Valley QRU and of the Swan Valley Fire Department. He took EMT training in the 1980s and was involved with training courses for the QRU and fire department.

Continued page 2

Continued page 5

## State office approves Stark house for the National Historic Register



John Stark crafting log furniture. Joanne Guyer photo.

John Stark, who lived in the Swan Valley, 1920s-1980s, was well-known as a skilled craftsman. John built several cabins along Lindbergh Lake. And many people in the Swan still own furniture and handcrafted items he made from lodgepole pine and larch. A rustic hand-made chaise lounge that John built provides seating at the Swan Valley Museum, and several wood carvings of local wildlife are on display at the Swan Valley Library.

John helped to construct Laird’s Lodge in the 1930s at Lindbergh Lake. He built his 26’x40’ log home at Cygnet Lake in 1939 from larch trees he harvested on national forest land in the valley. John and wife Marie Laird Stark moved in that year.

Vern Guyer began working for the U.S. Forest Service at the Condon Ranger District in 1949. Vern lived for a while at the Forest Service Lindbergh Lake Guard Station. He became friends with John and Marie. Vern learned furniture-making by watching John. Later in life Vern re-created several of John’s designs. Vern and wife

Joanne camped on land they owned near the Stark residence. John and Marie had no children, and after Marie died, John wanted to pass the home on to people who would appreciate it. In the 1980s Vern and Joanne inherited the Stark place. Vern Guyer died in 2016. Joanne invited USVHS President Steve Lamar to help her nominate the Stark house for the National Historic Registry. On May 15 this year, the Montana State Historic Preservation office approved the application. The National Park Service will make the final determination, which is expected within a few months.



## Roads and Trails, continued from page 1

opened in the 1910s following the passage of the Forest Homestead Act of 1906. In that early time period, it was often a 5-day trip from Missoula by horse and wagon to access the upper Swan Valley. As time went on, a rough road was pushed north to the Bigfork area.

In 1912, the Milwaukee Railroad completed a survey through the Swan Valley. The railroad was never built but the current Highway 83 closely follows the original survey line.

A 1930s WPA guidebook described the old wagon route: “State 31 runs through the Flathead National Forest of Swan Valley, a wild land with fish and game, rude trails and lookout stations. The road is poor with an average of 20 curves to the mile.”

Some of the mudholes in the dirt road became legendary. School teacher Florence Holmes, used two cars to get to school. She would pick up some of the students along the way, drive to a giant mud hole north of the community hall where everyone would get out, walk around the mud hole, load up into the second car and continue on to the Smith Flats School.

The lack of bridges in the early years caused more than one tragedy. Prior to the 1930s, a man by the name of Shorty and his team of horses drowned when attempting to cross an early-season flooded section on the old dirt road near the present-day Squeezer Loop Road. The flooded-out section of road became known as Shorty’s Hole.

About 1953, the State of Montana began surveying a new road from Seeley Lake to Swan Lake. After easements were purchased, the relocation, widening, and paving work ensued. The project was not completed until the last stretch of highway was paved in 1961.

The new paved highway brought major changes to the upper Swan Valley. The isolated communities of Condon and Salmon Prairie were now easily reached, perhaps with less adventure and mishaps. The timber industry expanded greatly as new markets were readily available. Recreation and tourism increased with the new-found access. The market for vacation homes increased. Many of the old-timers said that the highway was both a curse and a blessing. The close-knit community was now less so as newcomers and changes came into the area. But on the flip side, job opportunities increased dramatically. And going to town to get supplies or medical attention was remarkably easier. Dixie Meyer, life-long resident, said, “The logging industry took off and made steady work. Everyone bought cars and could go to town easily.”

Marian Matthew Seaman, another long-time resident, remarked, “I think when the highway went through, it made a big difference in the valley, as far as living here, especially on this property.” It’s just unbelievable the amount of traffic we have in the valley anymore.”

## Who We Are

### Officers

Steve Lamar, President  
 (406) 754-2745  
 lamar@blackfoot.net  
 Neil Meyer, Vice Pres.  
 (406) 754-2265  
 Fern Kauffman, Chair/  
 Secretary  
 Katharine Beers, Treasurer

### Board of Directors

Ellie Greenough  
 Sharon Gressle  
 Helene Michael  
 Barbara Raible  
 Pat Sinz

### Directors At-Large

Horton B. "Tony" Koessler  
 Henry Pennypacker Jr.

### Program Coordinator,

### Newsletter Editor

Anne Dahl

### Website Editor

Susan Novosel

### Digital Archivist

Jenny Kauffman

For more information contact any of the Society's officers or directors or write:

**Upper Swan Valley  
 Historical Society  
 PO Box 1128  
 Condon, MT 59826**

*News & Notes* is created and distributed by the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society. Become a member, donor, or volunteer.

USVHS welcomes all volunteers! If you would like to volunteer contact President Steve Lamar, 754-2745, or Colleen Kesterson, 754-2377. Your support is greatly appreciated!

## USVHS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Every little bit helps. Your support keeps the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society viable. Raffle sales help us offer programs, create exhibits and pay the many expenses, such as electricity, maintenance, insurance, taxes and upgrades. Thank you for lending a hand by participating in this charitable raffle.



**#1** One cord of firewood (4'x4'x8') cut and delivered between the Summit and Goat Creek, by Wes Kesterson. Value \$150. **Red ticket.**



**#3** Hand-quilted, sunflower-patterned quilt (80"x90"). Donated by Jo Ann Hostetler. Estimated value \$450. **Yellow ticket.**



Residential Window Cleaning  
 in the 2020 Season

### **Gift Certificate**

Remarkable Cleaning Pro, Inc.

**#2** A residential Window Cleaning certificate to be used in the 2021 season. Donated by Mark Mizner-Welch. Expires 11/1/21. Value \$150. **Blue ticket.**



**#4** Rustic table (48"x16"x28" tall) by Steve Lamar. Top is a single slab from Neil and Dixie Meyer's sawmill. Value \$200. **Green ticket.**

### **Ticket Prices: \$5 each or 4 for \$15**

An unlimited number of tickets will be sold in the USVHS August newsletter and will be available at the Swan Valley Museum and Swan Valley Library. The drawing will be at the USVHS Annual Meeting October 16. Winners need not be present to win. Raffle proceeds support the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society, Inc.

**Tickets available July 4 at the Swan Valley Museum and in the USVHS August newsletter, or call 406-754-2238.**

**Swan Valley Museum  
 Summer Schedule**

**Open July 3 - Labor Day, Friday - Saturday, 12pm - 4pm**  
**Or by appointment - Schedule may change due to Covid-19.**

info@SwanValleyHistoricalSociety.org, www.SwanValleyHistoricalSociety.org

Call Steve Lamar or Fern Kauffman for appointments or to inquire about accessibility, (406) 754-2745 or (406) 754-2238.





## USVHS Priorities

The USVHS priorities are the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Swan Valley. As such our focus is on:

- Discovering and assembling records of historical work.
- Providing educational outreach and research opportunities.
- Preserving historical artifacts and sites of significance.

### Recent Accomplishments

- Maki Cabin open with a tool exhibit.
- Swan Valley Digital History Tour for smart phones with Next Exit™.
- Ductless heat pump for the Swan Valley Museum north room.
- Outfitting & Guiding Celebration and Fundraiser at Swan Valley Museum.
- Continuing cataloguing of donations.
- Swan Valley Connections student tour at museum.
- Tour of the Arts at the museum.
- Swan Valley School and Salmon Prairie School tour at the museum

### Upcoming and Continuing Projects

- Digital research workstation for museum visitors to access home-stead records & other historical information.
- Digital archive system.
- Oral History Project Phase II.
- Outdoor power source for summer events at the museum.
- Technology in the Swan, Out-houses to Internet.
- Holmes/Krause Family Tree
- Forest Service Tack & Hay Shed

**How You Can Help** see page 7.



## Maloughney, cont. from page 1

As medical chief, Dan focused on preparing for Covid-19 in Condon.

After retirement, Dan began driving school bus and was friends with the Swan Valley students, who called him “Lil Danny,” Jenny Kauffman said.

In 2020, the Swan Valley lost several longtime residents, Don Guizzo, Val Hopkins, Tom Hulett, Leonard Moore, Turk Rowlands, Marian Seaman, Randy Styler and Jim Webb, as well as Dan Maloughney. *See the photos on page 7.*

## Leonard Moore rides on

Longtime guide and outfitter Leonard Moore passed away June 6, 2020 of natural causes. He was 94. Moore began guiding in Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness as a child, working for his parents. They operated out of the Swan Valley for much of Leonard’s life.



The USVHS nominated Moore for the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, 2018-2020. *Also see photo, page 7.*

## USVHS 2020 Events Calendar

Plans May Change due to Covid-19

**July 4, Opening Celebration,** Swan Valley Museum (masks required indoors & other Covid-19 restrictions in place), 9am-2pm.

**August 1, Fundraiser** plans pending.

**August 8, Huckleberry Festival,** Table at Swan Lake Campground.

**September 7, Museum Closes** (open by appointment)

**September or October, School Tours,** Swan Valley Museum, date and time TBA.

**October 10-11, Tour of the Arts,** Artists at Swan Valley Museum.

**October 16, Annual Meeting,** Swan Valley Community Hall, 1pm.

**December 5, Frostbite Festival,** Swan Valley School, 10am-3pm.



## Recipe Huckleberry Liqueur Mai Williams

From *The Huck Book*

- 4 Cups huckleberries
- 2 Cups sugar
- 1 Fifth of vodka

Put ingredients together in a jar and set for 3 months, then drain to have the liqueur!

## USVHS Volunteers Make It Happen



## Research work station ready

The USVHS research computer is ready for visitor use—on days when the Swan Valley Museum is open. Simple instructions for how to find historical records and view the interiors of the cabins at the museum will be available.

## What is it? Answer

A hinged lid to allow heat from the manifold of a Ford Model A to blow into the cab and warm the people.

Neil & Dixie Meyer Collection

# In Memory of Longtime Residents who Died in 2020

None from Covid-19



Val Hopkins



Don Guizzo



Turk Rowlands



Jim Webb



Marian Seaman



Randy Styler



Leonard Moore & Tom Hulet

Support the discovery, collection, interpretation and preservation of local historic and cultural resources.

We thank you, and future generations will thank you, too!!

The Upper Swan Valley Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit corporation. Federal Tax ID #77-0666044.

Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. Contributions will be acknowledged by letter.

Please make all checks payable to: Upper Swan Valley Historical Society, Inc., POB 1128, Condon, MT 59826

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: July 1—June 30

Individual: \$25\_\_ Family \$35\_\_ Business: \$100\_\_

CONTRIBUTIONS: Amount—\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial: \_\_ In honor of: \_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE: 3 YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ 5 YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

Total pledge amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amt paid now \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choose payment schedule: Annual: \_\_ Quarterly: \_\_ Monthly: \_\_

Undesignated contribution or pledge: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution or pledge designated for: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**How Can You Help?** Keeping the Swan Valley Museum open requires a team of dedicated volunteers, inspired members and consistent financial support in order to have a viable operation and be able to pay the many expenses such as electricity, heat, insurance, taxes, maintenance and upgrades. To this end we are actively growing our membership and inviting new donors along on our exciting journey. As the saying goes “many hands make light work” and this endeavor is no different. We invite you to begin, or continue, your support of the USVHS through membership, volunteering or donations (one time, monthly, yearly or lifetime options). We are proud to call Swan Valley our home and look forward to preserving our rich history! Thank you for making a difference! Please contact Steve Lamar, President at (406) 754-2745 or info@SwanValleyHistoricalSociety.org.

*We thank you for your generous support.*

UPPER SWAN VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1128  
CONDON, MT 59826  
www.swanvalleyhistoricalsociety.org

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CONDON, MT  
PERMIT # 16

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Stark house nominated for Historic Registry. Guyer photo



Partial funding for this project was provided by Montana's Cultural Trust.

The USVHS is funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund.



## JULY 4 SCHEDULE

### Swan Valley Museum & Heritage Site

9am-2pm. Holmes Family Tree, research computer. Blackfoot bottled water while it lasts.

**Parade** Starts at Liquid Louie's at 11am and goes to Swan Valley Community Hall. Grand Marshal is Linda Guizzo. Sponsored by Swan Valley American Legion Post 63. Ray Opp adjutant.

**Lunch** Hosted by Condon Community Church, 11am-2:30pm. Free burgers, hotdogs, brats and drinks at the concession stand.

**O-Mok-See** 1pm at the arena. Games on horseback for all ages.

**American Legion Beer Garden** all day.

**Fireworks** at dusk, at the arena.

*Plans may change due to Covid 19*

### *Inside*

Roads and trails in the Swan.

**Stark House Nomination.**

*Thank You Volunteers & All  
Who Have Donated Items for Displays*

