

Upper Swan Valley Historical Society



NEWS & NOTES



JULY 2021

DISCOVERY—COLLECTION—PRESERVATION—EDUCATION

VOL. XV. NO. 2

Holland Family Tree: Sharon Lamar's Most Recent Contribution

Volunteer Sharon Lamar recently finished painting her ninth Family Tree for display at the Swan Valley Museum—the Holland Family Tree.

An artist and author, Sharon is known for her colorful book illustrations, watercolor paintings of Swan Valley scenes and wildlife, the Swan Valley map painted on the floor of the museum, and the watercolor workshops she offers at December Frostbite Festivals. Sharon is a retired teacher who dedicates much of her time to volunteering. She is a regular docent at the museum, and she helps organize and host educational programs for local youth. Sharon was chief author and editor of



the USVHS 2017 book, *The Gathering Place, Swan Valley's Gordon Ranch*, which features a chapter on the Hollands.

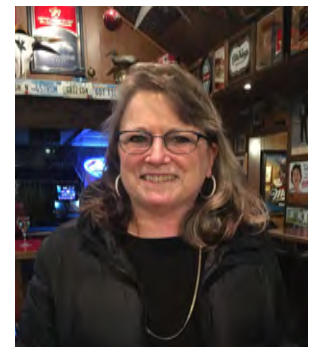
Benjamin B. Holland and his son Charles were the first to homestead in the upper Swan Valley. They each filed 160-acre claims on the open meadows west of Holland Lake, proving up in 1904 and '05. Holland Peak, Holland Lake, Holland Creek, and Holland Falls are named after them.

Ben and Charles raised cattle and guided hunters. Ben worked, 1899-1913, as a deputy forest ranger in the upper Swan Valley for the Lewis and Clarke Forest Reserve.

Ben guided Dr. Gordon, a Scottish physician from Great Falls, on several trips into the South Fork of the Flathead (Bob Marshall Wilderness). Dr. Gordon and his wife Isabelle, frequently stayed at the Holland ranch. Shortly after prov-



Benjamin B. Holland,
no date, Michael
Holland collection



Valli Bigley Parade Grand Marshal

Valli Bigley has been co-owner/owner of Liquid Louie's for 25 years. Born in Coos Bay, Oregon, she moved around the country with her parents Bob and Peggy Reed, because of Bob's work with Ford. But the family regularly vacationed in Polson and considered Montana a home base.

After retirement Bob and Peggy moved to the Swan Valley. Bob was commander of the Swan Valley American Legion Post 63, and was a key organizer of the annual Chili Cookoff, a fundraiser for the American Legion.

Valli graduated from high school in San Jose, Calif., went to college there and worked for a while as a dental assistant, before moving to Denver where she was employed for several years at the Diners Club with Citibank. She came to the Swan Valley when she married Rollie Bigley, who had purchased Liquid Louie's in 1987. Rollie died in 2019.

Continued page 2

Continued page 4

ing up. Ben and Charles sold there homesteads, now called the Gordon Ranch, to Isabelle.

During her research Sharon discovered new information about the Holland family since publishing the Gordon Ranch book. Swan Valley



Agnes Brewster Holland, no date, Garben photo

Librarian Colleen Kesterson went to high school in Helena with Ben Holland's great, great grandson Michael Holland, and helped Sharon connect with him by phone and email.

Ben and wife Agnes Brewster Holland had five sons born before they moved to Montana. Agnes remarried and was ranching in Cascade County when Ben and Charles were establishing residence on their Swan Valley homesteads.

All five brothers participated in rodeo, from breaking horses to riding bareback to bronco riding.



Charles Holland, no date, Michael Holland collection

Leonard Moore Celebration of Life & Hall of Fame Ceremony



Leonard Moore

A celebration of life for Leonard Moore, renowned Bob Marshal Wilderness and Glacier National Park guide, will be held July 17, 2021 at the Swan Valley Community Hall.

Leonard passed away in June last year.

On August 14, 2021 Leonard will be inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame, during the ceremony that begins at 10:30 am at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT. The USVHS nominated Moore for the honor.

A cowboy poet and storyteller, Leonard entertained a crowd during the USVHS 2019 celebration and fundraiser featuring outfitters and guides at the Swan Valley museum. His stories and poems were recorded and transcribed and are available on the public research computer at the museum, along with many other recordings.

Anyone wishing to attend the Hall of Fame event, please go to the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame website for more information: montanacowboyfame.org

You can help Fundraising for heat pump underway

The USVHS is raising funds for the new heat pump #2, installed May 27 in the south room of the Swan Valley Museum.

The heat pump(#1) in the north room has significantly reduced energy costs since 2019. The heat pumps maintain a steady temperature that protects the valuable artifacts and exhibits at the museum.

The fundraising goal for the south room heat pump is \$4600. Donations are welcome.

Research computer ready for visitors

The USVHS research computer is available on days when the Swan Valley Museum is open. Simple instructions lead users to homestead maps and records, audio and visual recordings, oral histories, photos of the interiors of the cabins on the museum grounds and more.

USVHS 2021 Events Calendar

Plans May Change due to Covid-19

- July 3, Museum opens,** 12-4pm.
- July 4, Celebration,** Swan Valley Museum, 9am-2pm.
- August 7, Roads & Trails Storytelling Celebration & Fundraiser,** Swan Valley Museum, 1-3pm.
- August 14, Huckleberry Festival,** Table at Swan Lake Day Use Area.
- September 4, Museum Closes** (open by appointment)
- September or October, School Tours,** Swan Valley Museum, date and time TBA.
- October 9-10, Tour of the Arts,** Artists show and sell their work at the Swan Valley Museum.
- October 21, Annual Meeting,** Swan Valley Community Hall, 1pm.
- December 4, Frostbite Festival,** Swan Valley School, 10am-3pm.

What is it?



Neil & Dixie Meyer
Collection

Who We Are

Officers

Steve Lamar, President
 (406) 754-2745
 lamar@blackfoot.net
 Neil Meyer, Vice Pres.
 (406) 754-2265
 Fern Kauffman, Secretary
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For more information contact any of the Society's officers or directors or write:

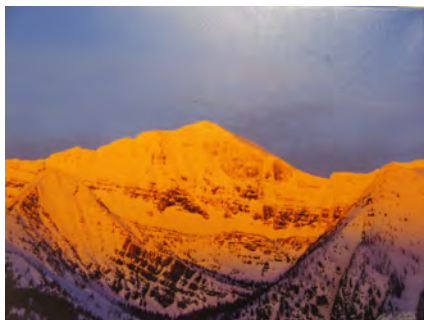
**Upper Swan Valley
 Historical Society
 PO Box 1128
 Condon, MT 59826**

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 Mark Katrein photo, Alpen Glow on Holland Peak, on stretched canvas, unframed. Donated by Mark Katrein. Value \$125. **Red ticket.**



#2 Lynne Perry painting, donated by Lynne Perry, Value \$300. **Blue ticket.**



#3 Braided rug, handcrafted by Dar Kearney. Donated by Steve and Sharon Lamar. Est. value \$35. **Yellow ticket.**



#4 Load of gravel. Delivery included within a 25 mile radius of mile-marker 37, Highway 83. Value \$220. Donated by Matthew Brothers Construction. **Green ticket.**

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

An unlimited number of tickets will be sold, available at the Swan Valley Museum and in the USVHS July 4 newsletter. The drawing will be at the USVHS Annual Meeting October 22. 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.**

ROADS & TRAILS STORYTELLING CELEBRATION & Fundraiser August 7, 2021, 1-3 pm at Swan Valley Museum

Listen and share stories about how road and technological improvements in the Swan Valley changed lives.

Tickets: \$10, children free

Plans may change due to Covid-19

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. (2019)
- Outfitting & Guiding Celebration and Fundraiser at Swan Valley Museum (2019).
- Continuing cataloguing of donations.
- Swan Valley Connections student tour at museum. (2019)
- Tour of the Arts at the museum. (2019)
- Swan Valley School and Salmon Prairie School tour at the museum. (2019)
- U.S.F.S Tack & Hay Shed. (2020)
- Holmes Family Tree. (2020)
- New security system for the Museum & Heritage site with more cameras and remote access. (2021)
- Ben Holland Family Tree. (2021)
- Heat pump #2 in south room.
- Spit-rail cedar fence at museum.

Upcoming and Continuing Projects

- Digital research workstation for museum visitors to access homestead records & other historical information.
- Digital archive system.
- Oral History Project Phase II.
- Outdoor power source for summer events at the museum.
- *Voices of the Swan* Book 2.
- Heat Pump #2 fundraising.

How You Can Help see page 7.

Valli Bigley continued

What Valli likes most about bar ownership is the patrons. “A big thank you to all who have patronized Liquid Louie's over the years,” she says. “Without you there would be no Liquid Louie's,” And she specially thanks her life partner Lars Hansen for helping run the bar. “I couldn't do it without him.”

Owning and managing a bar is a “laundry list” of challenges—The hardest part is telling certain people she can't serve them if they become too inebriated, for her liability and their safety.

Valli likes to golf in summer. Winter is set aside for catching up with bookkeeping and other bar ownership tasks. She has carried on organizing and promoting the Chili Cookoff since Bob died.

Valli hopes to sell the bar and retire so she can be more involved in the American Legion Auxiliary and spend more time on the Cookoff. She wants to be able to say, “I can do that,” when people ask for help.

Recipe Huckleberry Rhubarb Jam By Dixie Meyer

2 1/2 Cups rhubarb sliced	1 pkg. pectin
1 Cup water	8 Cups sugar
3 1/2 Cups hucks, crushed	

Combine rhubarb and water in a large kettle and cook until mushy. Measure 8 cups of sugar in a separate bowl. Add huckleberries and pectin to rhubarb mixture and stir until hot. Add sugar and stir constantly to a full rolling boil. Boil 4 minutes. Remove from heat. Pour into hot sterilized jars and seal.

Swan Valley Museum Summer Schedule



Open July 3 - September 4, Friday & Saturday, 12pm - 4pm
Or year-round by appointment

Schedule may change due to Covid-19.

nfo@SwanValleyHistoricalSociety
www.SwanValleyHistoricalSociety.org

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

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

Fourth of July 1988

Right: Kenny Wolff bearing the American Legion Flag, 1988.

Below: Sally Neyman and Russ Haasch in military dress, 1988.

Photos: Haasch-Neyman collection



In Memory of A Longtime Resident



Margo Melton

What is it? Answer

Fred Kaser's bed pan

Neil & Dixie Meyer
Collection

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

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Carrie Parker and parade Grand Marshal Ed Beck, July 4, 1986.

JULY 4 SCHEDULE

Swan Valley Museum & Heritage Site

9am-2pm. Holland Family Tree, research computer.

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

Lunch Hosted by Condon Community Church, 11:30am -2:30pm. Free burgers, hotdogs, brats and drinks at the concession stand. Church service 9:30am.

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.



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.

