



Tumbleweed Trails

Fall 2025
Issue #32

Jefferson Valley Museum Annual Newsletter

Board Members

Ron Hunt, President
Tim Mulligan, VP
Arlene Weber, Sec.
Lauri Rathe, Treas.

Directors

Tim Geary
Norm Tebay
Diane Jensen

SHARING HISTORY KEEPS IT ALIVE

When the doors opened more than 30 years ago a long-envisioned dream became reality. Through Walk of Names boards, memberships, memorials, visitor donations, grants from local and state organizations and loyal volunteers, the museum has continued to grow and share an ever-expanding history of our valley. The incredible undertaking started in the 1980s when Roy Millegan spent countless days collecting history interviews and artifacts. Our original group of dreamers are mostly gone now but their dream is kept alive through the work of our current volunteers who continue to spend hundreds of hours each year taking care of artifacts and/or providing personal tours to our summer visitors.

INSIDE

From top down: New display on how we got started; reading nook near the museum office; third graders enjoying one of our displays with help from Arcylle.

MEMBERSHIP AND MEMORIALS

Updated listing of our members who have achieved Life Member through levels of Benefactor



A few of our changes during this past year include a new outdoor picnic table that will serve as a memorial to volunteers who donated years of service at the museum; a new history display on the origin of the museum and recognition of those who helped make it a reality; a wheelchair for those who need extra help traveling through the displays; and the reading nook near the museum office—a nice place to sit and talk, rest, and/or read.

News Bits from 1926

News tidbits from each month of 1926 and a selection of local photos



We are continuing our partnership with the Whitehall Grade School third grade. Teachers bring students to the museum in October, February and May to learn about a variety of topics from U. S. and local history. The scavenger hunt with the bonus of a free ice cream cone at the local A & W is always a big hit. Children who visit during the summer also enjoy this option to learn about and explore the exhibits. Third graders were given a "mystery" item from the museum and asked to identify it. Their answers were printed in our local paper. None of them guessed it was an old-fashioned curling iron.

Renew or Help Find New Members

Form to renew your membership or pass it on to a friend or family member so they can become a supporter of the Jefferson Valley Museum.



Our website has been expanded this fall so please take a few minutes to visit and review the information at jeffersonvalleymuseum.org. The Our Town 100+ Years Ago articles that have appeared in the Whitehall Ledger are being added on the new Our Town page. On the Donations & Membership Forms page, it is easy to download Membership, Memorial, and Walk of Names forms or a copy of our annual newsletter. Memorials are a great way to remember a family

member, friend, or other person who had an influence on your life. A bronze plaque is added to our Memorial Wall with the person's name. When making a memorial, please remember to complete the section that gives the name and address of the family member/friend, etc. who should receive the note from the museum about your memorial donation.

Our regular open hours are changing starting on the 31st season opening, May 23, 2026: Tuesday through Sunday, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Most of our visitors are from Montana but we also welcomed guests from 26 other states and several Canadian provinces in 2025.

Highlights from 1926 JV News Front Page



January - The President Will Ask Congress for an Appropriation to Send a Delegation to the League of Nations Armament Congress. It is stated that Senator Borah will be asked to go as a delegate, which will be fine. The bellowing bull of Idaho will have a chance to show Europeans how fast and how often a statesman can change his mind.

February - School Board Meeting A contract was awarded to Ed Speck for the installation of steam heat in the gymnasium and the completion of plumbing facilities in two dressing rooms, at the price bid by Mr. Speck of \$1,771.00.

March - Mrs. Borden Hostess to the Basketball Boys The boys' basketball squad was delightfully entertained Wednesday of last week by Mrs. Lot Borden at the Modern Hotel. The coach, Elva Straw, acted as toastmaster and many clever toasts were given by the boys.

April - W. H. S. Wins Dillon Meet Whitehall won nine of the 14 first places; Dillon won three and tied with Whitehall for another, while Twin Bridges won first for all her points, with Bosolo winning the shot put. Mark Pruett, of Whitehall, led the individual scoring with 15 points to his credit, the result of two firsts, a second, and two thirds. Wolverton and Halverson, each won two firsts for Whitehall and Severtson won a first and tied for another.

May - Decorators are Now Busy in Whitehall Mr. Craine from Jefferson Island has been busy the past two weeks painting and decorating the interior of the Modern Hotel. When ready, Mrs. Lot Borden, owner of the Modern Hotel, expects to furnish the rooms and use them in connection with her popular hostelry. She will also have a suite of housekeeping rooms. Besides these big jobs of beautifying, other householders have employed Curtis and McNeely, who are busy daily with the brush.

June - 62 Pupils of Jefferson County Schools Pass Eighth Grade Examinations in 1926 Those with the highest standings from Whitehall are Marion Hester, Harry Barnes, and Nettie and Hettie Lowe.

July - Eddie Dower Takes the Pipestone Management Eddie Dower, formerly of Hennessy's store and popularly known throughout Butte, has taken over the management of Pipestone Springs, now equipped with a fine hotel and numerous cottages.

August - Thieves Busy in Whitehall During the Past Week Thieves have been visiting the potato patch of Wm. Vanderhyde on the Packard ranch and have already helped themselves to about half of the five-acre patch. The Johnson store at Renova was broken into and nearly \$300 worth of merchandise stolen.

September - Jefferson Island-Harrison Road Open to Traffic Shadan Lahood, proprietor of Lahood Modern Tourist Camp at Jefferson Island, informed us that the Harrison cut-off road, which has been closed since the night of July 3rd, because three bridges washed out, is again open to traffic.

October - Mining Activities in St. Paul Gulch District Walter Hill and Chas. Cowdry, who are mining on the Parrot claim in St. Paul Gulch, have taken out some valuable ore running high in gold, silver and lead. A. B. Schmidt and Wm. Austin are taking out some fine lead and silver ore on the Carbonate and Ed Schafnet and Mr. Peterson are sinking a tunnel in the Minerva claim.

November - Former Whitehall Man Dead in Cabin at Grace Johnnie Morris, former Whitehall man, was found dead in a cabin near Grace. The dead man was a brother of Mrs. Tony Block of this city.

December - American Legion Post will Sponsor Boy Scout Troop The Legion took action this week to direct the Boy Scouts program in Whitehall under the jurisdiction of the Butte Council. The committee includes Mr. Houx, Luther, Huber, Robert and Crane.



THE WEATHER			
Temperature for week ending May 18, 1926:			
Date	Max.	Min.	Precip.
May 12	62	40	
13	70	32	
14	70	35	
15	70	40	
16	64	44	0.03
17	62	46	
18	63	46	0.06

Two clear days, five part cloudy days during week. Greatest daily average, 38.0. Barometer on the change. U. W. ELMER, Observer.

From the 1926 Photo Album



Clockwise, from the top left:

Hilda Borden and Didi Lowry

Bernard May riding a calf at the Tebay place.

WHS Student Body, girls standing, boys seated.

Winners of the doll contest at the drug store.

Membership Levels as of October 31, 2025

Benefactors—GOLD: \$5,000 or More		<i>Note: (D) denotes deceased</i>	
Brooke, Tene (D) & Basil (D)	Huckaba, Ralph (D) & Violet (D)	Robert, Paul Do More Trust (D)	Wolverton, Robert (D) & Kristina
Bryan, John D.	Hunt, Ron & Sandy (D)	Sacry, Gayle & Kathryn	
Cowdrey, Buz (D) & Judy	Jardine, John (D)	Shaw, Dorothy (D)	
Ellerton, Catherine (D) & Jim (D)	O'Brien, Pat	Sims, Connie	

Benefactors—SILVER: \$2,500 to \$4,999			
Akerblom, Dr. Ingrid	Edwards, Vicki	Millegan, Roy (D) & Vera	Selby, Gay (D)
Bray, William	Hoyenga, Kermit (D) and Kay	Mulligan, Tim & Andrea	Skillman, Susan Taylor
Brooke, Tom & Ann	Martinell, Bret & Jonie	Sacry Electric	Wolverton, Rob

Benefactors—BRONZE: \$1,000 to \$2,499			
Akin, June (D)	Holmes, Roger (D) & Edna (D)	May, John	Salsbury, Douglas
Beyer, Roger	Hoopes, Clifford & Pat	Moore, Karan Metully	Schai, Neil (D) & LeAnne
Brooke, Janet & Jim Whaley	Kountz, John & Roxcee	Miller, Roy	Scott, Duane & Ilene
Geary, Tim	Landis, Lois (D)	Patrick, Glenn & Carol	Scott, Kenneth & Margaret
Harrington, Tom & Twila	Larsen, Charles E.	Payne, Gordon (D) & Sharon (D)	Wolverton, Kevin
Hay, John (D)	Lewis, Charles	Ranch Land Inc.	Woodward, James & Carol
Hawley, Trudy (D)	Lyda, Merle (D) & LaVida (D)	Shaw, Arcylle & Doug (D)	Youngman, Collyn Bruner

Patrons: \$500 to \$999			
Barkell, Clifford & Ethel (D)	Herbolich, Bill (D) & Donna (D)	Maichel, Helen	Smith, Ernest & Pamela Smith Kuehl
Brazill, William & Sharon	Hixson, Harry (D) & Donna	Manion, James (D)	Speck, Stan (D) & Karen
Brunet, Kevin & Dana	Jenkin, Tom & Carilyn	Millegan, Roy Jr.	*Swanberg, Shirlee & Marvin (D)
Casagrande, Bob (D) & Terrie	Jones, Mary Louise	Patrick, Bob (D) & Wilma (D)	Swisher, Mike & Ann Akin
Court, Virginia & Jim	Judd, Len & Gloria (D)	Pryor, Garland (D)	Tash, Don (D) & Penny
Davis, Shawn	Joy, John (D) & Sue	Rominger, Judith (Ross)	Tebay, Norman & Michelle
Fuller, Ron & Vicki	Kenworthy, Bill	Sacry, Dr. Dennis	Weber, Arlene
Hampa, Ron & Nancy	Kreis, John & Sally	Shupe, Barbara & Mel	

Life Members: \$250 to \$499		(D) indicated deceased Please note: when a single person or both in a couple are deceased, they are removed from the Life Member list.	
Adams, Bob & Carolyn	*Fleege, Jerry & JoLynn	Kountz, Cord & Jodi	Samuelson, Maxine
*Anderson, James	*Hain, Ronald (D) & Alice	*Lankford, Hugh (D) & Gertrude	Scharf, Darrell & Ann
*Anderson, Rich	*Getz, Garry	*Loghry, Gary	*Simon Ranch
*Armstrong, John	*Glover, Dan & Dottie	Maple, Terry	*Sjoberg, Leonard
*Armstrong, Rhea	*Grauman, Dave & Becky(D)	*Marx, Glenn & Teri	*Sleeman, Jack (D) & Rita
Baird, Kennon	*Hain, Lee	McFadden, John & Kathy	Sologub, Joe & Terri
Black, Debbie Noble	Hamilton, Keith & Connie	McClean, Barry & Trudy	*Suttner, Lee
*Brook, Grant & Holly Stiles	Hamlin, Ken & Patricia	*Mears, Howard & Judy	*Sweet, Ralph
*Buckner, Steve	Hanneman, Debbie & Family	*Mears, John & Judith	Truckle, Jack & Donna
*Burton, Don & Diana	*Hanson, Martha	Millarke, Linda Weber	Volz, Brenda & Dan (D)
*Carey, Tom (D) & Helen	*Hensleigh, Mary	Monforton, Tom & Rachel	Wall, Mike & Deanna
Carmody, Janice	Hobbs, Rhonda	*Oswald, Mike & Joyce	Waltee, Glenna & Don (D)
*Charles, Bev	*Holman, Pat	Palmer, Ann	*Welton, Miriam Eddy
Coonrod, Richard & Rita	*Housman, Curt & Deidra	*Partrick, Robert & Frances	Weyer, Florence
*Culpepper, Jim & Barbara	Huckaba, Kipp & Dawn	Peterson, Allan(D) & Bev	*White, Kayel
*Davis, Joe & Kay Ann	Johnson, Calvin & Michelle	Piazzola, Sandra	*Wideman, Chuck
Dawson, Jack	Kelley, Rick & Mikel	*Rennie, Dick (D) & Dixie	*Williams, Rick
Degenstein, Joel & Rachel	Kemp, Lynette	*Rich, Greg & Tracie	
*Edwards, Bev & Reid (D)	*Keogh, Gerry & Marty (D)	*Roberts, Don (D) & Pat	
*Ely, Mary J.	Kilburn, Cecil (D) & Betty Tatum	Sacry, Steve & Brenda	
Fellows, Tom	*Kneeland, Keith & Kristen	*Stoll, Ilene	

* Note: If no contributions have been received during the previous 5 years, name will be removed from next year's letter.

Commercial Members				
Barrick Golden Sunlight Mine	Valley Bank	*Wagner Nursery & Landscape	Whitehall Chamber of Commerce	*Whitehall Senior Center
Breining Homes, Inc.	*Vigilante Electric	Whitehall Ace Hardware	Whitehall Medical Clinic	

Grantors

Country Store	Jefferson Valley Community Foundation
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Memorials Received During 2025 (November 2024 through October 2025)

Amundson, Roland	Gless, Pauline	James, Dr. Rodney (Rod)	Miller, Dean	Selby, Gay
Anderson, Bill	Grasser, Bertie	Jensen, Warren	Miller, Vick	Sleeman, Rita
Anderson, Tom	Hampa, Don	Johns, Leland	Miller, Wade	Strozzi, Patty
Capp, Laura	Herbolich, Donna	Klemo, Mary Lou	Neary, Bob	Uivary, Jackie
Choquette, Rich	Hoerauf, Sue	Kober, Tia	Nelson, Earl	Whitesitt, Peggy Moore
Chun, Lucy	Hovis, Barbara Hanson	Kulpers, Barbara	Panich, Dee	Willis, Jesse
Edsall, Kenneth	Hoyenga, Kermit	Kuehl, Terry	Peterson, Allen	
Fries, Mark	Hunt, Dorothy	Latta, Gary	Peterson, Wayne	
Gillespie, Ellen	Hyppa, Don	Lee, Janice	Sacry, Karen	

**We wish to thank all of those that remembered someone with a memorial to the museum.
Names are engraved on a brass plate and added to our MEMORIAL BOARD.**

MEMBERSHIP Types: Annual (January through December)	One-time Donations or Accumulated Total Contributions
Active Member \$10 per year Family Member \$20 per year	Life Member \$250–\$499 Patron \$500–\$999
Sustaining Member \$25 per year Commercial Member \$100 per year	Benefactor—Bronze \$1000 to \$2499
	Benefactor—Silver \$2500 to \$4999 Benefactor—Gold \$5000 +
Boardwalk planks are \$35.00 each. Contact the museum for additional information about ordering a plank or download the form from our website.	

Museum Email	Museum Telephone	Face Book Page	Website
jeffersonvalley746@gmail.com	(406) 287-7813	Facebook.com/Jefferson Valley Museum	https://jeffersonvalleymuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP DUES—Life members and above are encouraged to make donations to help move to the next level of membership classification. The previous page has a list of members who have become life or above. We sincerely thank all who contribute since this is what keeps your museum open from year to year. If you know of someone who is interested in becoming a museum member, please have them contact us about the various categories we have listed below or give them the application in this newsletter. If there are questions about your classification or any changes that should be made, please contact us.

Make all payments to: **Jefferson Valley Museum, PO Box 902, Whitehall, MT 59759.**

IF YOU NEED A RECEIPT FOR TAX PURPOSES, PLEASE REQUEST ONE WHEN REMITTING.

All members are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting on the first Thursday of April. These meetings are held at 7 P.M. There will be a vote for open Director positions, business discussion of importance to the membership and a vote, if necessary, followed by our program featuring early women of our valley. **Our April 2, 2026 Annual Meeting will be held at Whitehall's Star Theater.** Put this date on your calendar now so you can join us for what will be an interesting program as we celebrate the start of our 31st season.

Please Note: Your name will be dropped from our mailing list if no donations have been received during the previous 5 years. If you want to continue receiving the printed annual newsletter, please contact the museum or download it from our website.

The Jefferson Valley Museum was envisioned, developed and is still maintained by local volunteers and supported financially through donations and memberships. The museum is open to all people with no entrance fee. To ensure the continued operation of the museum, which helps to preserve our valley's past for future generations, **WE NEED NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS.**

You can help by remaining a supporter and encouraging others to become a member supporter. Annual member contributions help pay for maintenance, monthly bills and the cost of preserving donated artifacts as do memorials made in honor of a family member or friend. All members (Family has two votes) are entitled to a vote at the Museum Annual Meeting held on the first Thursday of April. You can renew your support for the JV Museum by completing the form below or passing it on to a family member or friend.

Questions? Contact the museum at 406-287-7813 (landline). Leave a message if no answer. We will respond in about one week if message is left after 4 PM on a Monday outside of our open season (Memorial Day Weekend - Sept. 15).



JEFFERSON VALLEY MUSEUM MEMBER APPLICATION or RENEWAL

Annual Membership Types: (Check one)

Individual \$10.00 Family \$20.00 Sustaining \$25.00 Commercial \$100.00

One-Time and/or Cumulative Membership Levels:

Life Member \$250 - \$499 Patron \$500 - \$999 Benefactor Bronze \$1000 - \$2499

Benefactor Silver \$2500 - \$4999 Benefactor Gold \$5000+

Name (or Business Name for Commercial): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email (Optional) _____ @ _____

Make checks payable to JEFFERSON VALLEY MUSEUM Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: Jefferson Valley Museum PO Box 902 Whitehall, MT 59759

The Jefferson Valley Museum is a 501c3 organization. Contributions are tax-deductible under current IRS codes.