

info@mvhm.us



www.mvhm.us

MUSSELSELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

## Annual Meeting, Sunday March 12, 2023

The annual meeting of the museum board will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023 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.

Roundup  
Main Street Sculpture  
Update Inside



## Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Annual Newsletter Spring 2023

525 First Street West  
Roundup, MT 59072

406-323-1525      406-323-1662

info@mvhm.us

Website: www.mvhm.us

Find us on Facebook at:  
Musselshell Valley Historical Museum



A large load of coal for John Crosswhite of Roundup. John was the garbage man in Roundup for years.



It has become tradition for the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum to participate in the annual Christmas Stroll. The halls were decked as 73 visitors arrived on Saturday, December 3. Museum board members enjoyed visiting with old friends, and meeting some new ones as well. \$65 in donations was collected and 3 books sold. Come see us again.

## Cherished Memories

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum hosted a number of high school reunions during the 2022 season. The class of 1970 celebrated their 50, (+2), year reunion with a Saturday afternoon visit to the museum. Opting out of a guided tour, the reunion broke off into smaller groups and explored every corner. The guests especially enjoyed the school photos on the second floor and shared many stories with the greeters and each other. One guest told the story of how her mother, a teenager at the time, was given a ride, in the Pietenpol plane by Dave Comstock. Cherished memories are made and shared at the museum.

## SCHEDULED EVENTS 2023 SEASON

Opening Day	Monday May 1
Pancake Breakfast	Sunday May 7
Yard Sale	Saturday June 3
Closing Day	Saturday September 30
Christmas Stroll	Saturday December 2



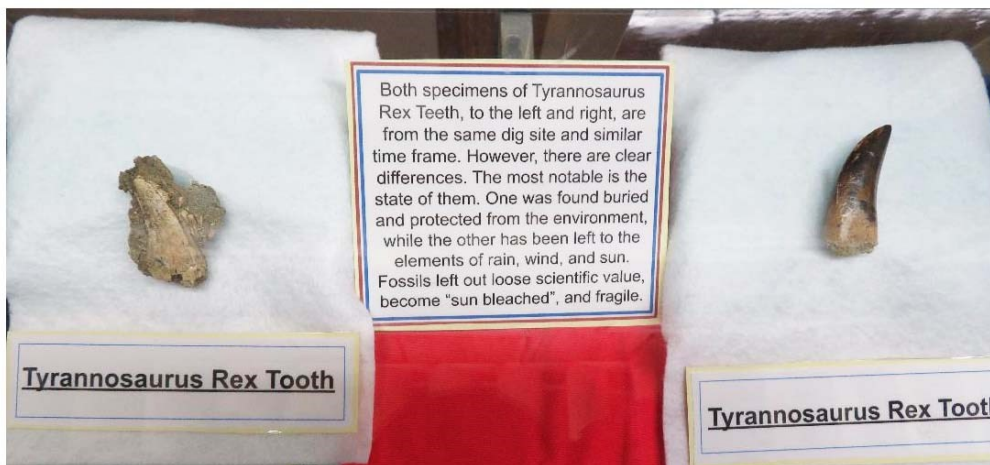


# Digging Up History

Whether you are 4 or 94, dinosaurs can bring out the kid in all of us. In 2022, the museum partnered with the Earth Sciences Foundation to create a new and exciting exhibit at the museum. With the help of a grant from Signal Peak, our many volunteers, ranches, and donors, the Earth Sciences Foundation facilitated adding an additional structure for the museum to display dinosaur fossils right here in Roundup. The addition will be open on May 1st and include a wide array of fossils and educational materials. Make sure to stop in and let your imagination run wild in the Mesozoic Musselshell exhibit. Want to get more involved? Check out the Earth Sciences Foundation at [letsdig.org](https://letsdig.org).



T-rex femur



<https://letsdig.org/>





# **New!** RENOVATIONS

The museum board has initiated a Kitchen Renovation Plan. The goal is to modernize our kitchen for more efficient and effective operations. These upgrades will enhance our capability to support museum and community group events.

Some of the specific improvements include new paint, improved lighting, new cabinets and the installation of a service island. In addition, upgrades will be performed on our electrical and plumbing systems. Together these improvements will allow the museum to better serve the community, and afford local groups another option for hosting events, meetings and fundraisers.

As of right now, requirements have been identified and submitted for contractor review, and the museum board is awaiting a formal proposal. The museum has also requested a bid to convert one of the basement bathrooms into wheelchair accessible, and upgrade both bathrooms to unisex to allow for ease of use.

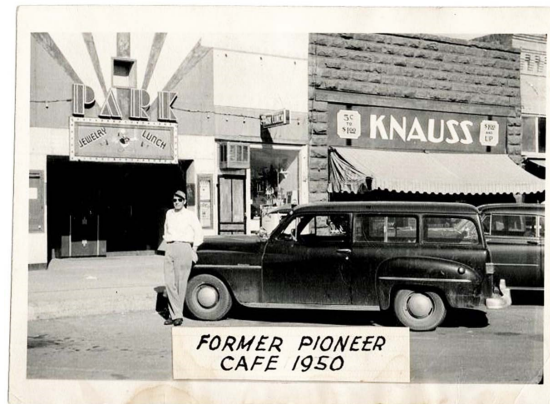


## State Senator's Desk

On the main floor of the museum, in the right corner of the buggy room, stands a stately mahogany desk. The desk features a slant front writing top with a drawer and an inkwell. The desk was used by 10 Musselshell County state senators between the years of 1913 through 1965.

Open the drawer, and signatures are revealed including Dr. O'Neil. It was tradition to sign or engrave signatures into the drawer as proof of those who served and worked at that desk.

The desk is modeled after a design by Thomas Constantine. Constantine was commissioned to make desks to replace those destroyed at the United States Capital. The original cost of this desk was \$34.





# Celebrating 50 Years!

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum building started out as St. Benedict's Parochial School, built in 1920, and opening in 1921. The first regular school year began in the fall of 1922 under the direction of the Ursuline Sisters. The church claimed that as many as 123 students were enrolled for the school year. The Sisters of Charity of Providence assumed teaching duties in 1933, but in 1950, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth closed the school because there were no nun teacher replacements. The church continued to use the building for various meetings, and in 1960 Roundup Public Schools leased the building to hold fourth grade classrooms due to overcrowding. Robert D. Felix, a C.P.A., purchased the building from the Diocese of Great Falls, and in 1972, the newly established Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Association bought the property from Felix for a fraction of its value, \$13,500.

Several years before the purchase of the building, the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Association was formed. Willa Dale Evans took over as president of the association and saw the project through to opening and forward. Through hard work, fund-raising, and donations, the Grand Opening for the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum was held on Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29, 1973. According to the Roundup Record-Tribune, over 700 visitors attended that weekend, including "a bus load from Ryegate".

History continues to be made within the walls of the museum, and Musselshell County. A number of updates, additions and renovations have taken place over the last 50 years, and will continue to be made thanks to the hard work of our supporters. The future looks bright with new and interesting collaborations and projects. Come visit us, we look forward to seeing you!



## Elected and Appointed At The Annual Meeting March 11, 1973

### Officers

President	Willa Dale Evans
Vice President	Harold Hamilton
Secretary	Luise Vranish
Treasurer	Florence Greener

### Board of Directors

<b>One Year</b>	<b>Two Year</b>
Margaret Keckemeti	John Armstrong
Betty Maris	Willa Dale Evans
Fred Tressl	Harold Hamilton
Joe Vranish	Mary Morsanny
<b>Three Year</b>	
Ted Haverland	
Forrest Hodges	
Charles Maris	
Bobbye Wise	

### Appointees

Curator	Margaret Keckemeti
Art Consultants	Greg Eiselein, Jack Nelson, Dave Pouliot
Publicity	Virginia Howell
Natural History	Steve McCann
Donated Legal Counsel	Charles Maris



# Membership List

\* Denotes Lifetime Members

## Business Names

1st Security Bank  
Allison Saddlery  
Busy Bee Café  
C Brewer  
Edwards Broadcasting 99.9FM  
Elite Towing  
Elite Tune and Lube  
Key Insurance  
Lee Farms LLC\*  
Lions Club  
McCleary Distributing  
MT Historical Society  
Moody Enterprises  
Musselshell Valley Equipment  
Picchioni's IGA  
Progressive Club  
Roundup Record-Tribune  
Signal Peak Coal  
VFW  
Women's Club

## Individual Names

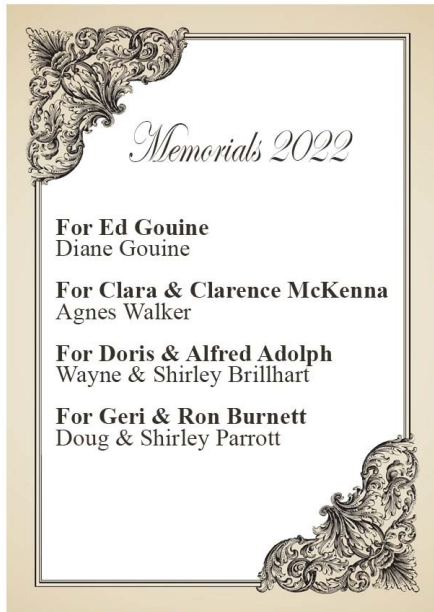
Alger, Dale & Tomi  
Allen, Roberts\*  
Armstrong, Brad & Renee\*  
Arthur, Anne\*  
Backstrom, Jeanette\*  
Barta, Dan\*  
Bartos, Jean\*  
Bedford, Henry & Kay\*  
Bethke, William G.\*  
Betts, Elizabeth\*  
Bissonette, Adele L.\*  
Blum, Rose Emily\*  
Brown, Dennis\*  
Brown, Mickey & Phyllis\*  
Burch, Anita\*  
Casey, Susanne  
Casper, Bob  
Chandler, Sandra\*  
Christensen, Trish\*  
Clark, Shirley\*  
Clement, Michelle\*  
Combs, Bonnie\*  
Cooper, Madeline\*  
Corn, Marie\*  
Cottrell, Serena\*

Crawford, Kathy\*  
Crosby, John (Steve) & Barb  
Crouse, Erma & Mitch\*  
Dahl, Susan\*  
Degoes, Arlene E.  
Desjarlais, Gene & Delores  
Doumitt, Theresa  
Durgin, Richard & Andrea  
Edwards, Bill\*  
Edwards, Vivian  
Egeler, Robert & Joyce\*  
Eichele, Brenda  
Eickhoff, Rhea\*  
Eiselein, Beverly\*  
Eiselein, Greg  
Eliasson, Gary\*  
Eliasson, Jay\*  
Eppers, George & Darlene  
Erdie, Karen Jo\*  
Evelo, Jane  
Ewen, Jim\*  
Fletcher, James\*  
Fuller, Hank W.  
Gallentine, Merle\*  
Gebhardt, Kelly & Darlene\*  
Gerrard, Pat  
Gjerde, A. Russell\*  
Goffena, Cheryl\*  
Gouine, Diane  
Gray, Ed & Kay  
Hebert, Leslie\*  
Hagstrom, Dave & Roberta\*  
Hamill, Janet\*  
Harper, Roger\*  
Hawkins, Susan\*  
Hebert, Leslie\*  
Hinman, Susan Wetzel\*  
Hodges, Nancy\*  
Hochmuth Ranch Trust\*  
Ihrig, David & Kimberly  
Jones, Dave\*  
Juhl, Will & Georgia\*  
Kenney, Patrick\*  
Kilby, Gordon\*  
Komar, Clara M.\*  
Kozelski, Albert & Jan\*  
Lang, Delinda\*  
Lekse, Larry\*  
Lynt, Sharon\*  
Mackay, Bill  
Marmon, Donna\*  
Maxwell, Michael\*  
McCaffree, Dan\*



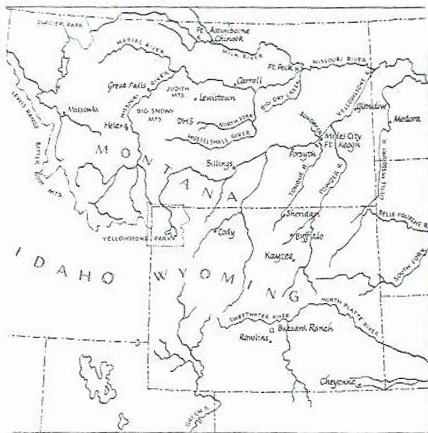
McCready, Louise\*  
Mihalovich, Michael\*  
Mihalovich, Richard\*  
Mihalovich, Robert U.\*  
Mihalovich, Wilma\*  
Miller, Dr. Bob & Jean\*  
Mitchell, William J.\*  
Moore, Linda\*  
Moses, Steve C.\*  
Nelson, Mary  
Novotny, Mike & Michelle\*  
Parrott, Donald\*  
Parrott, Doug & Shirley\*  
Parrott, Jeffery\*  
Parrott, Joseph\*  
Peterson, Sharon Mercado\*  
Picchioni, Linda\*  
Purcell, Mary  
Reighard, Doug\*  
Reikofski, Mary\*  
Riojas, Jane\*  
Robertson, Jerry\*  
Ross, Bette\*  
Rutan, Dave\*  
Sackett, Gary\*  
Samuels, Marlene  
Samuelson, Jessica  
Schladweiler, Jim & Rita  
Seitz, Scott & Victoria\*  
Seitz, Diane  
Sloan, Edith  
Smith, Loris\*  
Smith, Thomas S.\*  
Snook, Dwayne & Wendy\*  
Spek, Beverly\*  
Spek, Darlene E\*.  
Steele, Shirley\*  
Stevens, Tim\*  
Teini, Dallas & Cecilia  
Thomas, Gary & Debra\*  
Toogood, Clarence\*  
Trent, Norma  
Unterseher, Peggy  
Vandeberg, Daniel J.\*  
Van Dyke, Randy\*  
Walker, Agnes  
Watkins, Rick & Jacqueline\*  
Webber, Jeri\*  
Whitmen, Kathleen\*  
Winkler, Kenny\*  
Witzel, Nan\*  
Wood, Wilbur & Elizabeth\*  
Yount, Linda\*

# Teddy Blue Abbott Memorial Status Report



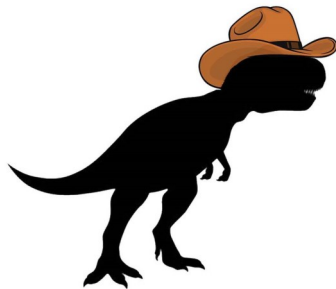
The dedication of the Teddy Blue Abbott Monument was held July 3, 2022 at the Musselshell County Courthouse. Numerous Abbot descendants attended this event. At least 4 of these descendants currently reside in Musselshell County. There is one final step left for completion of the project, purchase of the plaques, one designation major donors and the other second a short narrative about Teddy Blue with recognition of the work of Greg Eiselein. Billings Monument has graciously offered their services at a reduced cost.

A couple of notes of interest: E.C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott trailed herds for a number of area ranches among them the N Bar, DHS, NF, P&W (Woolfolk), Roberts Cattle Company, and for the brand currently belonging to Rath's Ranch. Abbott actually lived at the N Bar for some time in addition to trailing several herds from Texas for them. He numbered among his friends and acquaintances some notable characters such as Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickock, Bill Cody, and Charlie Russell, with whom he maintained a friendship until the time of his death.

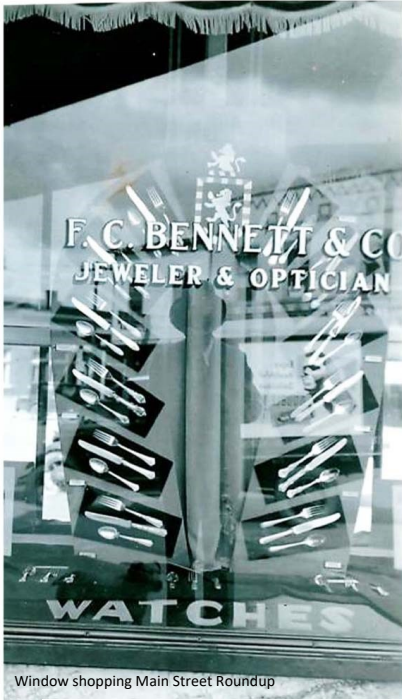


*Teddy Blue's Country*

Tax deductible donations for this final portion are still being accepted. Checks should be made payable to MVHM/TBA Monument, c/o 320 4th Street West, Roundup, MT 59072.



Even though several grants were awarded for creation of this monument, it would not have been possible without the fiscal sponsorship of the MVHM, the investment of individual donors from throughout the United States, and the artistic vision and loving and dedicated talents of Greg Eiselein. The committee is sincerely grateful.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

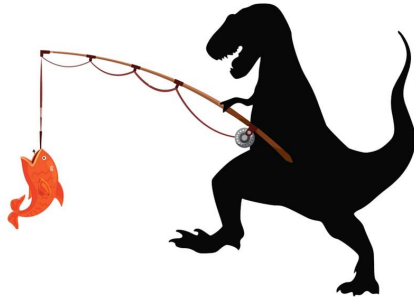
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Musselshell Valley  
Historical Museum  
524 1st Street West  
Roundup, MT 59072**

♥ Memorials are accepted year round and are a lovely way to remember and honor someone special.



Rauch and Panian Saloon, Farreltown 1910

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