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FEATURED NEWS

Recognizing Your Ranch Community History



By: Jack McInerney, Sales Associate

Learning about the local community's history can be part of the intrigue of enjoying a new ranch or home. Local historians Bill and Doris Whithorn have done a remarkable job of gathering information and creating historical accounts from which we can learn about our different bergs. Their collection is held at the Yellowstone Gateway Museum in Livingston. Ask any neighbor about a choice piece of Montana history and you are likely to get varied responses such as *Tough Trip Through Paradise, The War of the Copper Kings* or one of the Ivan Doig's novels.

One of my favorites is a recent book written by my friend Donna Gray, shortly before she passed away, titled *Nothing to Tell.* In the 1980s, Donna toured Montana with a script and a reel-to-reel tape recorder interviewing elderly farm and ranch women. One highlight in memory is the 80-plus-year-old, Marie Converse, whom I knew. I recall seeing all 4' 10" of her peeking over the wheel of her yellow Ford Falcon as she sped down the gravel road, throwing up a plume of dust, waving to me while I was irrigating my field. These now recorded experiences show the strength of the people and women who came to the West when there was no public infrastructure and your neighbors were whom you turned to for help.

The West is a fascinating melting pot of a variety of cultures. There were abundant incentives to migrate to the Rocky Mountain West for the original settlers, and many of the same incentives remain for residents today. Park County in Montana illustrates this as well as any location. Outside of the town of Wilsall, Montana, lies the burial site of a 6-7 year old boy from the Clovis period, 13,000 years ago. DNA testing on his remains revealed that he was linked to people of Central and South America. Nearby, European settlers arrived due to lack of opportunity brought on by droughts and plagues in other regions. They dreamed of owning land and discovering gold. The town of Clyde Park, a few miles down the Shields River, owes its foundation to Catholic and Methodist settlers from France, Ireland and England. These towns embrace their histories, which the elders are quick to point out. The pattern seen here emerges in many communities across Montana: groups of varied origin that are separated only by a few miles or a stretch of river.

Those of us at Live Water Properties appreciate the history behind each of our ranches and we understand that many Buyers today are looking westward for the same reasons as settlers did years ago. Knowing the history and stories that have defined these communities is critical in explaining the value of the land. When a ranch is purchased, another chapter of its history is written.

Jack McInerney has a great knowledge of Montana, it's land, and it's history. His skill set make him an asset to any ranch purchase. Please contact Jack McInerney at 406-586-6010 or at jack@livewaterproperties.com for more information.

FEATURED AGENT

Jack McInerney, Sales Associate



During the past twenty years in Livingston, Jack and his wife Alice have purchased and improved "neglected" fishing and hunting properties in central and western Montana. Lessons learned by developing the fisheries, bird and big game habitats give Jack an excellent eye for both improving the diamond in the rough and polishing the already beautiful gem. Improving these properties has been an opportunity to gain knowledge about Montana water rights and conservation issues that impact landowners in many different river basins. To speak with Jack directly, please call 406-220-1696.

Affiliations: Shields Valley Future Farmers of America Alumni, Shields Valley Business Professionals of America, Southern Crazy Mountain Watershed Group founding board member, National Rifle Association member, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation member, Ducks Unlimited member, Red Cross of Park County past board member.

FEATURED PROPERTIES



Prickly Pear Mtn Ranch Canyon Creek, Montana Price: \$3,750,000 Reduced! Acreage: 1,338 Acres Features:



Rock Creek Fishing Retreat Clyde Park, Montana Price: \$1,475,000 Acreage: 69 Acres Features:



Tillinghast Creek Ranch Belt, Montana Price: \$1,200,000 Acreage: 325 Acres Features:

- 4,987 sqft main home
- Trophy elk hunting
- 2,700 sqft custom home
- Abundant live water
- Sportsman's paradise
- Adjacent national forest

FEATURED VIDEO

Shields River Valley Ranch - Livingston, Montana



Situated 20 minutes from Livingston and 45 minutes from Bozeman, Montana, in the scenic Shields Valley, the Shields River Ranch offers 894 acres of prime production and recreational property in a serene setting. The surrounding area is one of the most sporting-oriented locations in Montana, renowned for a number of legendary fisheries and world-class hunting options for both birds and big game. *Read More...*

