

By Mary Doggett
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Ceremonial Tree Planting in Honor of Henry McClernan

Today is a *special* day. This is a *special* event to honor a very special man.

Henry and I were friends for over 20 years. I first met him in the late 70s – he was doing his geological “stuff” in our end of Meagher County. He stopped by and graciously left us some maps and other information he had discovered. Later, in 1980, I believe it was, he was at a Broad Valleys federation meeting in Butte. I remember it so well as he encouraged me to be involved in the library world. I exclaimed I was just “filling in” for someone else, but he just smiled that quick, impish grin of his and continued smoking his pipe. He was so dashing!

A year or so later I had a phone call from Sara Parker asking me to serve on the newly formed Library Advisory Council. I tried to beg off because of my inexperience, but she said, “Henry McClernan said you *had* to do it!” He was a persistent one, that Henry. See what he started!

I was lucky enough to serve a year with Henry on the Library Commission. After he left, I often called him for advice. He was so generous with his help, but of course he was doing it for the libraries of Montana, and he loved the libraries so very much!

I will miss Henry, as so many of us will. He was a kind, thoughtful, intelligent, witty person. The library world has lost a strong advocate and we have lost a dear friend.

I know the other commission members join me in saluting our friend with the planting of this tree in memory of Henry.