



Amazing Montanans—Biographies

Elizabeth Davey Lochrie

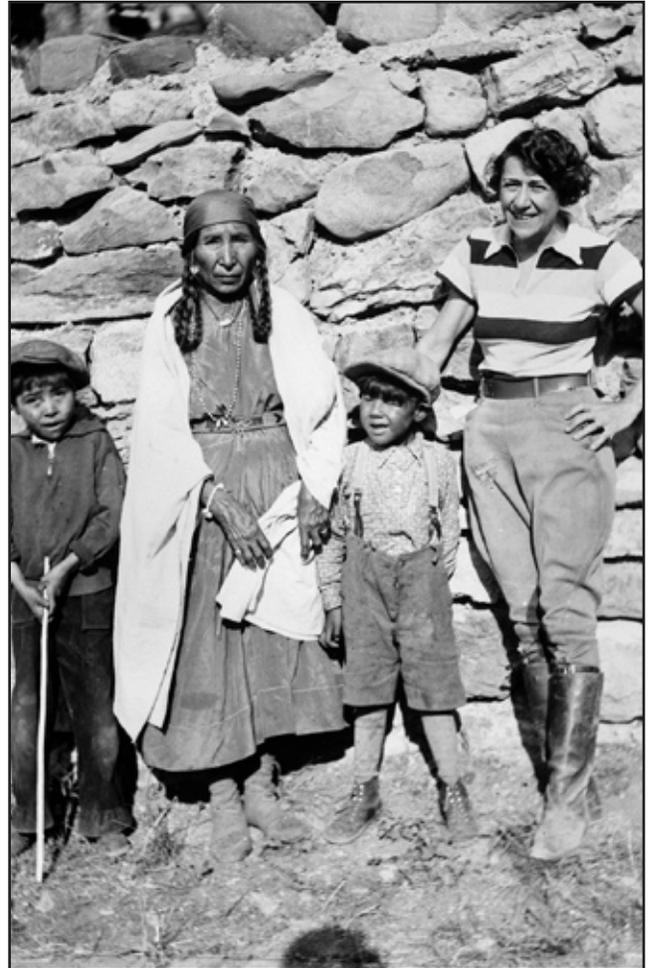
Elizabeth Lochrie is one of Montana's best-known women artists. She was born Elizabeth Davey in 1890 in Deer Lodge. Her father was an engineer and her mother a dietician. Elizabeth was a tomboy who liked to play baseball and ride her horse, Babe. What she loved most of all though was drawing.

Many Blackfeet and Cree Indians lived in the Deer Lodge Valley when Elizabeth was young. Her family became good friends with many of their Indian neighbors. Frank Davey, Elizabeth's father, hired Cree craftsmen to make furniture for their home.

After high school, Elizabeth went to the Pratt Art Institute in New York. She returned home in 1911. Soon after, Elizabeth met and married Arthur Lochrie, a banker who had just moved to Deer Lodge.

Elizabeth and Arthur had three children who kept her very busy, but she never stopped creating art. Elizabeth taught art classes to local children, drew cartoons for the newspaper, and painted murals for public buildings. She is most famous, however, for her portraits of American Indians. She painted many of these portraits in Glacier National Park.

She first traveled to Glacier in 1931. There, she and her husband met and befriended Gypsy and George Bull Child. George and his wife worked as models for artists visiting the park. George Bull Child was also an artist. For three summers, Elizabeth lived in Glacier and studied portrait painting. She made friends with many of the Blackfeet Indians there and learned to speak Blackfeet and use sign language. Elizabeth was even adopted into the Blackfeet tribe. For many years, she returned to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Glacier National Park to paint.



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAC 79-37. Don Sorrel Horse "Jiggs," Under Howling Woman (Stocktocharni), Dan Sorrel Horse, and Elizabeth Lochrie. 1935. Photographer Unidentified

Elizabeth Lochrie continued to paint until her death in 1981. You can see her paintings at the Charles Clark Art Chateau in Butte and in other museums across the United States.

Sources: "A Half-Century of Paintings by Elizabeth Lochrie" (biographical essay) by Betty Lochrie Hoag McGlynn, online at <http://lochrie.doanehoag.com/html/biography.html>; and the Elizabeth Lochrie papers (SC NUMBER) from the Research Archives, Montana Historical Society, Helena.