



Miracle of America Museum

Winter 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860 406-883-6804 www.miracleofamericamuseum.org • info@miracleofamericamuseum.org

Executive Board of Directors

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- Kendall Dupuis • Mike Maddy
- Stan Cohen • Ned Wilde
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Advisory Director

Jim Pomajevich
Are you interested?

MOAM recycles, restores!

Occasionally visitors remark, “Why don’t you sell or get rid of some of the junkier stuff and use the money to restore the more meaningful items?” Well, we think you will appreciate a more cleaned up and organized yard.

Some items were salvaged for useful restoration or metal sculpture parts and the rest sold to the scrap yard. The money then goes for restoration or in some cases obtaining displayable inventory. For example, we recently bought a 1948 Cockshutt farm tractor. It ran, and was pretty complete, but missing the front grille panels. Those and hood side panels were usually the first parts to be removed from a tractor so the farmer could clean the dirt out of the radiator fins or service the engine quicker and easier. Often these parts would get misplaced or thrown away.

I remembered that the Milner family used to have that model of tractor, so I called Clao to see if by chance the panels from his long-a-go -sold tractor might still survive. A very few days later, Clao actually found them and donated them. We don’t have “miracle” in our name for nothing. They really complete the tractor. Now if I could just find someone that still had some grille panels for our 1944 Oliver 70 row crop tractor.

Photos, top: New lean-to with 5 orchard tractors and crawlers; bottom: 1948 Cockshutt farm tractor..

Construction continued during mild weather

It seems only yesterday that I was writing the fall N.L. The antique thermometer on the general store porch has been posting numbers in the teens lately and radio weather reports tell us that winter is just around the corner. We’ve been taking advantage of the lack of snow on the valley floor to build some lean to’s and more shelter for autos, tractors, and other equipment. We are starting to run low on the piles of recycled building materials, but Dupuis Lumber on Turtle Lake Rd. and Plum Creek Plywood Division at Columbia Falls have donated some top grade material to help us out. Jim Pomajevich donated enough steel roofing for the largest new shelter.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Misc. donations started coming in while the fall newsletter was at the printers and include the following:

Norman and Jean Swanson – 24 commemorative and souvenir items of British Royalty dating to 1939 with an appraised value of nearly \$500;

Howard Cicon, Rollins – donated an early model 16 DeLaval cream separator, early air compressor, beaver traps, and misc. from the family ranch near Chester, MT;

Jeri Currie – 1903 Chautauqua Elementary School teaching scroll;

Don Bosshardt – Pyrene brass fire extinguisher, Texaco outboard grease and oil;

Richard Lau – Town Trac Montgomery Ward rototiller, wire stretcher, and cash for the Paul Bunyan;

Kris Hanley – WWII – army nurse bedroll, clothing bag and a large box of era Stars and Stripes and misc. ephemera and photographs. Both parents, Robert Winter and Lovella Nadrau were pre-war Ronan residents and while they were previously married and both based in England, were not allowed to live together during the war.

Claudia Lancette, Helena – panoramic 8” x 36” circa mid-1920 cycle group from Minnesota. Her uncle Ira Enmark, owned a motorcycle shop in Minneapolis. I count 75 cycles, the majority of them being Harleys, 36 of them with sidecars.

Larry Eslick – pot belly stove, hand-truck, and wooden toy semi tractor and flatbed trailer;

Howard Hudson – Glacier National Park napkin holder, early steam iron, and automobilia;

Jerry Roat – riding lawnmower.

Mike and Jeanne Dennison – Circa 1900 Large frame bandsaw for wood and a school shop-made 16’ canoe;



Camp'otel
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PREFER
OFF-THE-GROUND
SLEEPING --- AND DISLIKE TOWING

Camp'otel
Sleeps 4 on Top of the car---
Provides cooking and eating needs---
A complete Bathroom---
And it all rides on top of the car.



Libby Heritage Museum – circa late 1960’s Camp’otel, slightly used, but still with its original box. This will probably go on top of our 1963 Rambler station wagon. (See photo, above.)

Gerald Geske, Superior, MT – Experimental airplane called the Moth Bat 2. It will be hung from the ceiling in the winter bldg; see photos below.



Newsletter layout courtesy of
Carmine Mowbray of



MOAM Board News

The Board met in October and will be meeting quarterly in the future. Mike Maddy has offered his office so we can receive conference calls from those not present.

The cost of displaying and securing donated items was discussed. While grateful for the trust in the museum and the item(s) themselves, there can be a tremendous cash and labor outlay preserving some items. Some donors have given money for buildings, cases, picture frames, and other display items. The board would like to encourage donations specifically for the established displays. Volunteers are always welcome to frame items or arrange displays. We ask those interested to check with Gil on current requirements.

As the board considers the future, a pressing need will be raising funds for a full time curator. Because Gil and Joanne have never taken a salary we will need to increase the operating budget to cover the cost of a curator. The endowment fund – whose earnings we hope will perpetuate the museum for future generations – currently is about \$250,000. Only the income from this fund can be used for operating funds. The endowment will need to be more than \$1,000,000 to fund a curator.

Perhaps you would consider a year-end gift to the endowment fund.

Membership in the museum is open to any interested person and has its privileges.

Annual memberships: Family \$25; Sustaining \$100; Corporate \$200; and Lifetime \$1000. Members receive free admission, newsletters, a 10% discount in the gift shop and voting rights. . . Please advise when you make a donation how you want the funds applied when you make it. Your address and email address will be helpful for our records.

We'd love to hear from you -

Visitors, area residents and friends,

We will gladly publish your thoughts in upcoming newsletters.

We wish to thank Bob Fulton of Polson for his article about November's Miracle of America Activity Night. (See insert)

Please join us for December's Activity Night!

Thursday, Dec. 12 – 6:30 p.m.

“I knead the dough”

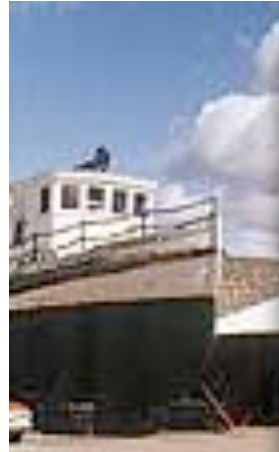
We are committed to giving history a future for all to enjoy and gain understanding. Can you; will you, help?

Here are a few ways you may consider helping us meet and sustain our goals:

- Volunteer time or skills;
- Donate items for display.
- Make Gifts of • Bequests • Real Estate
- Stocks and Bonds
- Cash • Trusts
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Securities
- Memorials
- Life Insurance Gifts

Goal in sight to cover the Paul Bunyan!

In order to preserve and make our popular Paul Bunyan display more accessible to visitors, we have designed a permanent shelter. We received good news last summer when we were awarded a Montana State Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) grant to provide about 80% of the cost. Since then, we have been raising money for the required local match. At this time, we are within \$1,250 of our goal. ***Please help us top our goal!***



A huge salute of thanks

to our

New and Renewing Members:

Corporate donor—Pacific Steel, Missoula

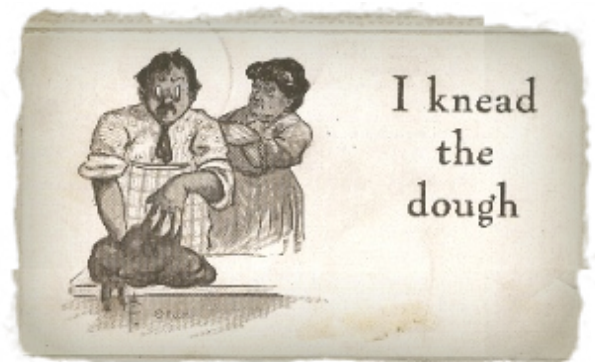
Annual sustaining--- Rick Jennison,

Linda Lodmell Kosvic, Jim Manley,

Bobby Unser.

Family—Monte and Loie Turner.

Gil wishes to acknowledge every membership and donation. If he forgot you here or elsewhere in this newsletter, please kindly let him know.



“Dough” card is from 1911

Your tax or estate planner may be able to show you ways to take tax advantages.

Miracle of America Museum is a non-profit charitable organization recognized by the IRS.

Gifts are tax-deductible.

Miracle of America Museum
36094 Memory Lane
Polson, MT 59860



December 12 Activity Night features Christmas movie and readings

Miracle of America Museum hosts “Activity Night” the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. It is free to the public, although donations are accepted. If you’d like to share cookies or other treats, they are welcome.

We’ll keep you posted on the subject matter. If you’d like to be a part or all of a program, please call Gil at 883-6804 or 270-7895. The ideal program length is no longer than two hours.

The December 12 program is a classic short movie starring Jimmy Stewart and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in “Mr. Kruegers Christmas” followed by a poem written during WWII by the Lake County Superintendent of Schools. If you have a favorite Christmas poem we invite you to share. A piano is available if your family wants to play and sing.



My personal Christmas message to each of you is found in Luke 2:14, the basis of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s immortal hymn, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”. In it there is the promise that the haters and wrongdoers shall fail, and that the Christchild born in a manger , grew up to give the ultimate sacrifice for each of us as our Savior, and only he can bring real peace.

Merry Christmas,

Gil

Christmas card printed in 1911



Miracle of America Activity Night – *Bob Fulton*



David Polson portrait by Carmine Mowbray by request of Polson-Flathead Historical Museum for Polson's Centennial poster.

Attendees at the November 14th monthly activity sponsored by the Miracle of America Museum were treated to a fascinating and informational presentation by MOAM president Gil Mangels on the subject of David Polson, the namesake of our town.

Gil alternately spoke in the first person as David and in the third person as a commentator and lecturer on the early history of Polson. Gil described the difficulty he had encountered in determining much of the history of the early settlers of the Reservation since records and recollections preserved have differing dates for births and deaths of these men and women.

Gil realistically described the challenges faced by David Polson and his contemporaries as they sought to establish a town at the foot of the lake. By using 100 year old pictures and other documents Gil was able to “bring to life” this early history of the white settlers on the Reservation. The original Polson homestead, though expanded over the last 100 years, is still occupied by the McAlpine family near Bird Point along the south shore of the lake. Gil then explained the technology of early photographers in the area who have provided much of the early documentation of life in Polson. Moving his lecture from the auditorium to the front of the museum, Gil showed those in attendance the pictures of the city and surrounding areas including a discussion of the “Polson Bridge” and how it evolved from a “Y” at the Polson side of the bridge to the current single span.

If the quality of Gil’s presentation is any example of what the public can expect in future monthly activities, it is easy to conclude that the public should block out time in their schedules to make attendance at future events mandatory.

It was an evening that will not soon be forgotten.



***Please join us for December’s Activity Night,
6:30 p.m. Thursday evening, December 12.***





2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FAMILY \$___ \$25 TO \$99; SUSTAINING \$___\$100; CORPORATE \$___\$200; LIFE \$___ \$1000

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES FREE ADMISSION, NEWSLETTER and DISCOUNT IN GIFT SHOP.

OTHER DONATIONS

OPERATING EXPENSES \$_____

PAUL BUNYAN \$_____

MY PET PROJECT _____ \$_____

WHERE NEEDED MOST \$_____

FREEDOM TRUCK \$_____

ENDOWMENT FUND \$_____

MEMORIAL FOR (Person) _____ In the amount of \$_____ State category _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email, so we can send you quarterly Newsletters _____

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1911 Holiday card; from Museum collection

**LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE?
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The gift that always fits, and needs no batteries!**