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Miracle of America Museum

Winter 2014

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Paul Bunyan reaches goal

The Paul Bunyan shelter project matching-funds goal was reached thanks to donations from Paul Fugleberg, \$25; Mike Hutchin, \$75; Dave Sergent, \$50, and Walmart, \$200. While we have been assured the project is approved at the top level and the funds are there, the grant process has only ground along slowly so it looks like the actual project may have to wait 'til Spring and warmer weather.



Thank you to everyone who chipped in large and small on this important project to preserve a valuable icon of Flathead Lake history!

Special Need – Can you help?

We can use a dependable smaller car or pickup. Check with your accountant to see if a tax write-off would be more beneficial to you than trade -in value.

Museum benefits from Eagle Scout bench/picnic table project

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is far reaching in building boys into men. Dusty Shepard, quiet and unassuming, recently saw a need in the museum village and thought it might make a meaningful Eagle project. I agreed and he made his presentation to the Scout Council. A portion of doing an Eagle project is showing leadership, and service. Of course many projects depend on generous businesses and individuals in the community, but a scout can learn bravery even in the presenting of his project and asking for a donation of materials, time, etc.

He shows leadership and organizational ability by laying out the plan and involving others to help in the project.

As large as the museum is, we didn't have enough places for people to sit and rest, change the baby, work on their photo equipment, or have a picnic lunch. Now we have 10 sturdily built benches which easily convert into 1/2 a picnic table strategically placed around the courtyard and up on the hill where we have done some improving and organizing. Photo at left shows three generations: Dusty, father Jamie, and grandfather, H.J. Pieper seated on one of Dusty's new benches in front of the medical building. Center: replica of Eagle plaque.



**DUSTY SHEPARD
EAGLE PROJECT
Troop 1945 October 2014
Supplies donated by
Ace Hardware, Hunt's Timbers
True Value,
Western Building Centers**



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Motorcycles, mower added

Collections keep growing: motorcycles include a 1969 305 Honda Super Hawk from **Allen Unruh**, and a 1972 Zundapp/Rickman 6 days trials-off road motorcycle plus other collectibles from **Bob Burke**, the manager of Murdochs.

Andrew Speer donated a working, riding lawnmower. While this isn't an antique, it has been very useful in keeping the grass mowed out front.

Another versatile tool

During the 1940s and early 50s, many companies built versatile multipurpose tools or machines. One was the Shopsmith, which in just a few minutes and with a minimum of effort could be changed from a wood lathe, to a vertical or



horizontal drill press, drum or disc sander, wood jointer, jig saw, table saw, etc. **Steve Noe** donated a nice one this Fall and also donated \$25 cash because I picked it up. That brings me to a concern that was discussed at our Fall

quarterly board meeting. While we are grateful for the donations, sometimes it is expensive to make them presentable for display, or there is quite a cost in framing, housing, or securing objects or collections. Please don't think us ungrateful. We are not trying to take food from your table or asking for the widow's mite, but the board of directors wanted me to mention this fact.

Jens Gran donated a nice OMC 5 hp 1935 rope start boat motor. This is a true rope start motor in which you had a length of rope w/ a T handle on one end and a knot in the other end to insert in one of 2 notches and wrap several loops around the flywheel pulley. If you were lucky, it would start before your arm gave out and the knotted end of the rope didn't hit you in the face. This was some improvement over the little knob sticking out the top of the flywheel to hand crank. In these earlier motors, you were lucky if the knob didn't break your wrist. Newer motors and modern smaller motors use a recoil start rope. In this case, you were lucky if the recoil spring didn't break on you when you were out in the middle of the lake. A lot of luck is necessary when you're boating and fishing, see above.

Speaking of fishing, Montana Picker, **Howard Hudson**, brought in a couple of vintage fishing plugs along with some neat children's items and Montana advertising and historical documents. (Page 3)

Tom Needham dropped off a couple of cameras, one a

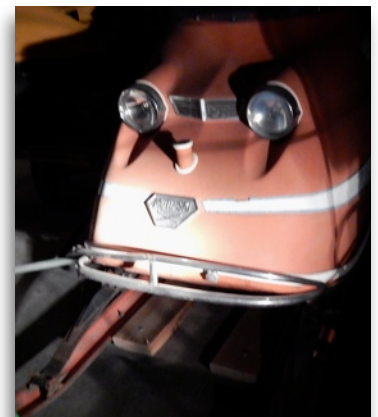


movie camera to go with the 8 mm projector. It is amazing that of close to 50 projectors in our collection, there are hardly any duplicates. An interesting letter from the Lonepine, MT General Store shows a rather humorous way of reminding his grandfather that he had overlooked payment of \$4.24. Back in 1932, that might have been a week's wages. (pic)

Other photo equipment and a mint condition Kodak Premoette Sr. bellows camera came in from **Chuck Tremblay**.

Phyllis Heck sent us an Abaco Island, Bahamas License plate and a circa 1947 21" x 30" motorcycle poster of the National TT race championships in which husband Art won third place with his 45 c.i. Harley and first place with his 80 c.i. Harley.

Ken Rowley delivered a circa 1970s Colt Polaris snowmobile, and a very nice condition 1969 MotoSki snowmobile was gifted by **Marvin Kaschke**. Fortunately, he had it under a shelter so the windshield and seat were still in good condition. Realizing I had more room for text and a photo, I ran out to the winter bldg. to snap a photo. A little dark, but the MotoSki with its bug eyes is very distinctive looking. Let your imagination soar and it almost looks like a big fish with the front bumper resembling the mouth.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS



Carmine Mowbray included with her donations, three of her Mother's "Honey Bunch" books. I just love the artwork and rich colors of these early children's books, (Above..

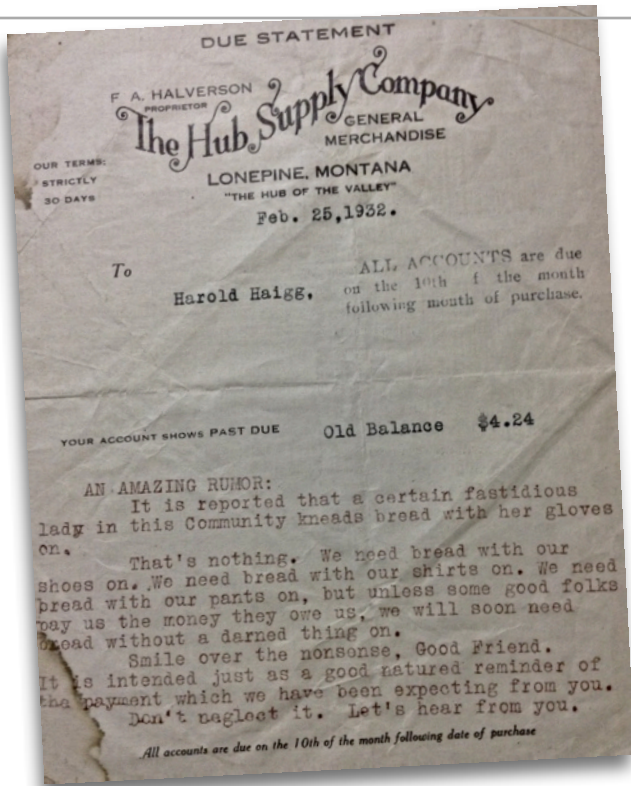


At left are children's items from Howard Hudson.).

As early as 1400s— Extensive vintage gun collection gifted

Elmer Johnston of Matawa, Washington donated a huge gun collection of accurate and functional historical reproduction firearms from the 1400s thru the Civil War.

We'll show more in future newsletters, but for now, check out this 1800s percussion harpoon gun pictured next to our whale vertebrae, at right..



1932 Lonepine Company Billing Statement

The Hub Supply Company of Lonepine approaches its customers tactfully and poetically. Typed at the bottom of this statement for an "old balance" of \$4.24 it says:

"AN AMAZING RUMOR:

It is reported that a certain fastidious lady in the Community kneads bread with her gloves on.

That's nothing. We need bread with our shoes on. We need bread with our shirts on. We need bread with our pants on, but unless some good folks pay us the money they owe us, we will soon need bread without a darn thing on.

Smile over the nonsense, Good Friend. It is intended just as a good natured reminder of the payment which we have been expecting from you. Don't neglect it. Let's hear from you."

Ways to help MOAM

I wish to remind you that donations may be tax deductible and we need to enlarge the endowment fund. Gifts in the form of property, stocks, etc. in your will, will help assure the continuance of the museum.

We can also use a dependable smaller car or pickup to run errands. One of our volunteers could be more helpful if we had one for him to use at will. Check with your accountant to see if a tax write-off would be more beneficial than trade-in value.

Gifts in Memory of Others

Memorial donations in remembrance of **Leonard Haack** so far have been received from **James and Vivian Miller** and **Frank and Lulu Stock**. We will feature Leonard in an upcoming newsletter.

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*A Christmas message
worth repeating:*

May the Bells on Christmas Day as penned by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow drown out the sound of hate, mockery, and war and the noise of power crazed despots within and without our Nation. May we realize that true peace cannot come through the arm of flesh, but from the Prince of Peace whose birth we celebrate at this time of year.



*I wish you all a
blessed and Merry
Christmas!*

– Gil

Join us for Second Thursdays!

6:30 pm at the Museum • Free and fun family entertainment.

Movies!! Readings!! • Tours of select items!!

• **Dec. 11 – A reading of the Christmas story and Jimmy Stewart’s “Mr. Krueger’s Christmas”**

• **Jan. 8 – “Journey to the Titanic”** – Join Roger Bansemer, world famous artist, on DVD in his 2005 dive to the Titanic and his painting of it on the ocean floor as he viewed it through the dive vessel’s viewport. Every artist who has seen this or the two 30 to 45 minute programs of painting subjects done at our museum, have said they learned something. Great program for school art classes to see! Learn more about Sarah and Roger Bansemer at Painting and Travel.com.

• **Feb 12 – “Timberjack”** – 1955 feature length movie starring Sterling Hayden, Vera Ralston and Hoagy Carmichael. Partially filmed in Bonner, Polson, Glacier Park, and other parts of NW Montana and Idaho. Authentic history of period logging mixed with a Hollywood love and hate story means there is plenty of violence in an otherwise fun, old-school modesty, and educational movie.

• **Mar. 12 – “Meet Herman Schnitzmeyer”** – Presentation and display of his original photo equipment and life story by Dennis Kellog, avid H.S. collector and historian. Both he and the museum have been blessed to own original photo equipment and cameras from this noted early day area photographer. A historic, educational, and enjoyable evening are promised.



Treats and donations are welcome. For more info, call Gil at his work phone, 406-883-6264.