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Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
AMERICAN ASSOC.
OF MUSEUMS

Autumn 2018

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Executive Board of Directors

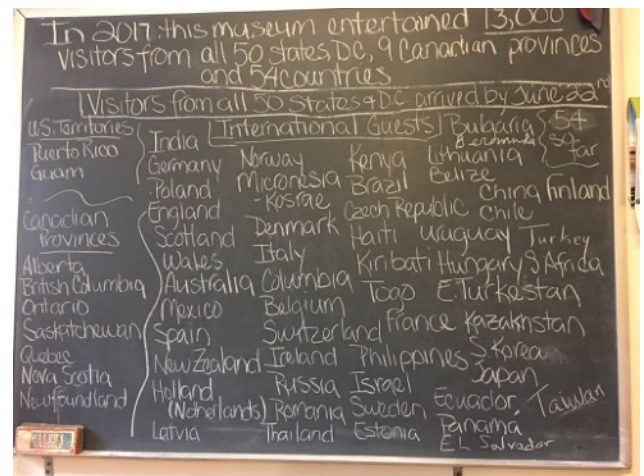
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MOAM sees visitors from all 50 states; 54 nations

A very busy summer indeed. We are grateful that more visitors are coming because of family and friend referrals. Also, many local service personnel, i.e. clerks, food servers, and business owners are spreading the word. The fires and smoke have diminished our numbers somewhat, but to date we've had all 50 states, 54 countries, and seven Canadian provinces.

The nice new brochure for our Lake County Museum Consortium has been popular in the various racks around the valley and Glacier airport visitor center, proving that co-operation makes us all winners. The title, "A Road Trip to Remember" contains info on the seven museums and two historic sites in the Mission and Jocko Valleys.

Remember, though that some are seasonal and others shorten their hours in the off-season, so you might want to have one on hand so you can refer to it when you have friends or family coming to visit.



This newsletter may be viewed online. Please go to our website and click the Newsletter tab for clearer color photos: Miracleofamericamuseum.org

Newsletter layout courtesy of Carmine Mowbray of



Live History Days successful, thanks to our hardworking volunteers

A big thank you to all those who helped with this year's Live History Days. Ever faithful Rod's Harvest Foods in St. Ignatius donated chili, picked up and delivered by Renee Loehr. Polson's McDonalds, Safeway, Super 1, and Walmart also contributed to our concessions. Daughter Joy used part of her vacation time and drove down from Kalispell to manage the concessions and fountain. Partner Jake also helped. Longest distance helpers were my granddaughter Becky, husband Curtis and children who drove about 600 miles just to help out. Dave Bauer drove all the way from Huson, and he, Curtis and local Sam Allred were able to operate all of the technical rides and machines which took a big load off my shoulders.

The family of H.J. and Nancy Pieper is always a blessing for running parade vehicles and giving rides on Live History Days. I don't have to worry about anything when H.J., son Scott, and sons-in-law Nate Lamphere, and Jamie Sheppard are at the wheel. Nancy and daughters always make sure

there are adequate American flags for the vehicles and parade passengers.

The blacksmith shop was covered both days by Brandon Steele and his wife of Steele Forge of the Missoula area. Sawmill was operated by Larry Eslick who even picked up the sawlogs donated by Dupuis Lumber and Hunt's Timbers.

Many others helped in one way or another including Amber Reese playing piano, our local valley musicians organized by Wilford Kenmille, school house readers, Janet Hunsucker and Joye Albert, and our wandering fashion show, Dave and Linda Ensign. Helping w/ publicity was the chamber and local media, which was a challenge with so many other events happening in the valley. KERR and KGEZ radio also do a live interview for this, as well as our monthly free program "Night at the Museum" which is on the fourth Thursday evening of each month.

Greater Polson Community Foundation grants Gun Shop \$2,000

The antique gun shop received a \$2,000 grant from Greater Polson Community Foundation for our state of the art security system. The main system is already working and the rest will be finished next month.

Gunsmith **Robert Schaffer** pleased our Live History

Days visitors with his broad knowledge of the evolution of firearms through the ages. He is currently working on a display board on which we will show the advancement of the Colt revolvers from the very first.



We salute our Members and Donors – Thanks to you, the Museum thrives

Annual membership categories:

Single, \$25, Immediate Family \$50,
Sustaining \$100, Corporate \$200.

Other categories include Lifetime membership \$1,000,
and Memorial, Special Projects, Endowment, etc.

Enlarging the Endowment fund is so important as the interest from that will hire my successor. I, as founder and president have never, nor do I intend to receive any remuneration from the museum. However, when I don't show up for breakfast, a manager and assistant manager will have to be hired to continue to stay open.

Our being a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit, may make your contribution tax deductible. There are numerous financial categories in which you may help the museum, i.e. Wills, trusts, tangible properties, etc.

We urge you to check with your financial planner or accountant.



Almost daily, visitors want to see what their parents or grandparents may have used back in the day or have donated. So, maybe your posterity might benefit from a certain percentage of your estate going to our endowment to perpetuate a place to learn about you.

Financial friends this last quarter include:

Singles: **Dick Christopher, Jan Ekstrom, and Don Morgan.**

Family: **Kenn Brown, Vince Lovato, Robert and Maggie Nickisch, and Amy Williams.**

Corporate: **Western Montana Community Tel, Inc.**

Memorial: **Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Close** in memory of General James Kemp (pre WWII Ronan High School knew him as Dudley)
Portrait in charcoal of Gen. Kemp at right.

Fathers Day donation for **Dan Feil**
by **Sally.**

Lifetime: **George and Brenda Brimhall.**



What our visitors say ...

Amazing museum. 2 year old loved it.

Worth the trip from Berkeley.

Great place!!! So fascinating, cool collection of stuff. Would come all day every day and never get bored...and find something new every day!!! LOVE IT HERE !!!

Best displays! Very interactive! My teenage boys loved it. Thanks.

Great family place! Everyone should get the chance to experience this place.

From France-A treat for all your senses-Merci beaucoup.

Never seen anything like it. Well put together. Love to return all the way from San Diego.

Great fun for the whole family! And so much interesting things about the history of U.S. Thank you from Lithuania.

Second time here and still haven't seen everything. My entire family appreciates the incredible hard work that has been done. Wow!

The "eyes" have it!

As I was trying to finish this newsletter, in walks **Brad Trospen** with antique eyeglasses and two WWII ration books. So rather than trying to insert this in with the donation listings on the next page, I decided to take the easy route and mention them here.

The glasses went immediately to our optometrist shop.



Friends of MOAM pass

The passing of several friends this last quarter is depressing. Those included WWII veteran Flick Riebe who had donated memorabilia. He loved to ride in our military vehicles in the Memorial Day and and Fourth of July parades. His family made a memorial donation of \$300 which will go towards enhancing a display in his honor.

Another friend, Ed Brueckman, when his health permitted, loved to run old engines, corn shellers and grinders, etc. during our shows. He was a wealth of knowledge about old engines and will be missed.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

“What? Do people just donate all this stuff, or what?”

That verbatim statement is more common than you might imagine. While we have been donated many wonderful and valuable display items, much of it I collected back before the media shows and eBay started raising the prices to ridiculous heights.

Many items, like the airplanes and some of the military vehicles, because of our non-profit 501 (c)3 status were acquired through the state and federal surplus programs. That source has all but dried up, with nothing collectable offered anymore.

The board has also allotted a certain percentage of museum income to be used for accession of meaningful and/or historic objects that might complete or add to a certain exhibit.

Such was the case of a circa 1920s Glacier National Park Waitress pin found by a treasure hunter with a metal detector in a Ronan yard. He researched from several GNP archival sources and no one had any knowledge of another, or how it might have ended up in Ronan, Mt.

Since the museum inherited the 1920s waitress uniform from wearer **Doris Huffine** about 30 years ago, I felt we should have it. It will not be placed on the uniform however until we can secure the complete ensemble, so it is displayed securely behind glass in our park memorabilia collection as my most expensive pin.



Another park related item is a colorful sign donated by **Gary and Frances (Helen's sister) Abbey**. I remind you that if you are getting this newsletter physically, that the internet version is in color.



Garry Wunderwald from Clancy and his friend **Dick Christopher** spent a day in our photo shop and static movie theater sorting and making a display out of boxes and piles of related misc. Even though we aren't finished, "what a difference a day makes." Garry donated some posters and DVDs of films that were at least partially filmed in Montana. I had no idea there were so many. We'll try and feature some at our monthly programs.

Just when I think we are about full, someone else brings something unique and different in, or invites us to check something out in their garage, attic, or barn. We seem to find room for it. An unusual all metal rocker type washing machine came from **Zon Lloyd**. Early stenciled cherry boxes and a shingle saw blade came from the old Hidden Rock Resort gifted by **Rene Nazelrod**.



Pat Fleming brought in a couple of specialized MT. License plates for the 4-H. One will go with our large collection in the main auto building, and the other will go with our 4-H memorabilia.

It is amazing the quality of packaging they often used in the "Good Old Days." Case in point is this Star Egg carrier donated by **Joe Read**.



Connie Bull also brought a couple of loads by including vintage Dictaphone and very different typewriters.

Chief picker **Howard Hudson** continues to find odd and amazing "stuff". Often related to Glacier Park, Motorcycling, Boy Scouts, General Store, etc. This 34 page Watkins booklet has no date, but I'm guessing it to be circa 1930s and it will be displayed with our sprayer and insecticide container collection of around 100 pieces. Interesting that some of the most dangerous chemicals are in some of the most colorful and artistic packaging. I liken it as to how satan paints sin.





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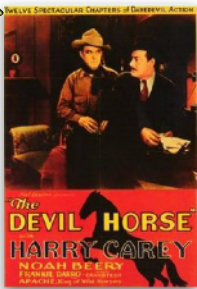
The Past and Its Lessons are Gifts for the Future. Give Today

To ensure the future of the MOAM we have established an endowment and chosen the Montana Community Foundation (MCF) as our partner in philanthropy.

Through MCF there are many ways to give and 100% of your donation benefits the MOAM endowment, and is tax-deductible. It doesn't matter how you give, it simply matters that you give. To ensure that your donation benefits our endowment make your check payable to or direct your gift to "MCF/ Miracle of America Museum. Mail to Montana Community foundation, 1 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1, Helena, MT 59601. Find out more by going to www.mtcf.org/Giving/Ways-to-Give.

"Free Night at the Museum" – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM – Free and Family-friendly!

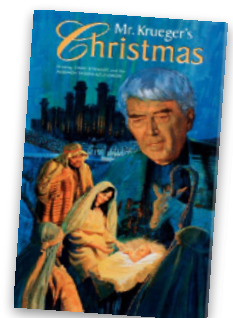


- **October 25** — 1926 silent film partially filmed in Hardin, MT., Rex "The Devil Horse" started out as a young colt abused by marauding Indians who destroyed a wagon train. Lots of action as Rex, now a beautiful full grown stallion gets revenge. Enough captions to follow the story line. 90 min.

- **November 22** — Bring your leftover treats from Thanksgiving dinner and watch "Kelly's Heroes" in memory of Veterans Day. Power packed action mixed with tongue-in-cheek attitude make this one of the most entertaining movies that Clint Eastwood, Donald Sutherland, Telly Savalas, and Don Rickles have starred together.



- **December 27** — Singer Amy Grant and Dennis Weaver in "Headin' Home for the Holidays" filmed in Glacier Park and the Scriver Art Gallery in Browning, MT. Since this Christmas movie is only an hour long, it will be preceded by a 30 min special with Jimmy Stewart in "Mr. Krueger's Christmas."



Treats and donations are always welcome!