



Miracle of America Museum

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

Spring 2022

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Nola Dupuis-Catlett, and Julie Weber

Grant to Boost Live History Days

While David works outside and in the shop restoring museum projects with wood donated by **Dupuis Lumber** on Turtle Lake Road, Helen and I have been busy working on two grant applications. One is for widespread advertising for our 35th annual Live History Days, July 16-17. We hope to reach out further than we could afford in the past to draw more folks to the special event, who also spend more money in the Polson area.



More visitors means more effort on our part to provide a quality experience, so we are begging your involvement. Does exhibiting, volunteering in various areas, or dressing up pioneerish appeal to you? Come join us during Live History Days as part of an appreciative audience for the various performers!

2021 record attendance; WinterFest success

I write the newsletter in stages to keep it as current as possible, as things are added to my stack of notes. It has been a fairly mild winter without much welcome moisture with only a couple of chilly periods, but today for instance it is 2° F and I've become less hardy when the temperature plummets like this week.

MOAM has eventful winter, launches first Winter Fest. We set an attendance high in 2021 and January of this year was also higher than any previous January. Our "Winter Fest" went well, lots of happy faces and rides and other snowmobilers brought vintage machines to help give rides as well. Pictured giving a ride is Elijah Camel who volunteers here and especially enjoys military reenactment activities.

Other volunteers include Marj Dickson, Jim Doolittle, Howard Farquhar, Tony Marshall, Julie Weber, and Matt Wetzel.

We celebrated the maiden voyage of our 1924 Model TT Ford snowmobile and everything worked alright until I went over a snowplow berm and one front ski rolled under and bent in two. I forgot to attach snubber chains to keep that from happening David has since straightened it and we reinforced both skis so it shouldn't happen again.

Designated as a winter fund raiser, with food sales, admittance and tips, we brought in over \$800 so we are happy about the event and everyone said they'd be back for our 2nd annual Winter Fest the 2nd Saturday of January 2023.



Award-Winning Filmmaker Brings Friends to MOAM

We had a pleasant surprise visit from Christian Taylor from Illinois and two friends, one from New York. They came to Polson to participate in the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC).

Christian was awarded FLIC's Audience award last year for her wonderful WWII documentary "The Girl Who Wore Freedom" her related documentary was screened this year. Christian is a fan of our museum and wanted her friends to experience it. FLIC also hosted Hollywood film

producer Jerry Molen and his son Steven for an interesting and entertaining question and answer session.

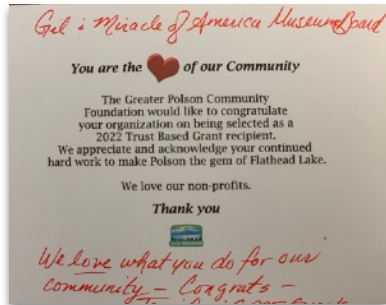
FLIC includes film productions from local producers, but hosts filmmakers from as far away as Korea.

We appreciate that FLIC brings visitors to Polson for the Cinemafest, many of whom tour MOAM.

MOAM Applies for Barn Rehabilitation Grant

The second grant we hope to attain would allow us to rehabilitate the barn we lost in the fire last year. Representatives Linda Reksten and Joe Read and Carmine Mowbray have urged us to apply for this very competitive grant and have been very helpful in making it happen. Letters of support from our County Commissioners, Shauna at Glacier Bank, Annie at Port Polson Inn, and Paddy Trusler were greatly appreciated. There were more offers, but it is recommended to keep them at a minimum.

This grant requires that we furnish a 20 percent match which means we have to raise a little over \$20,000. A good start was provided by The **Greater Polson Community Foundation's** \$3,000 Trust Based Grant that we chose to use for the match as other donations will be. The museum also received a \$1,000 check from the **Don and Denise Loveless Family** Charitable



Gift Account of the Schwab Charitable group.

We have received other smaller donations and some pledges, so feel free to help out. We have been restoring some of the fire damaged antiques, so it will be nice to again have a weather protected display area.

Let there be light

Higher prices and availability are an issue for us and we remind you that we are a 501 c 3 non-profit museum so donations may be a tax advantage to you.

Some businesses take turns with a giving fund from year to year and the employees may nominate where the donation may go. You certainly have our permission to nominate or suggest Miracle of America Museum!

Mugs at Polson Ace has treated the museum well by often giving us half off plus additional discount, the last gift was for a case of fluorescent light bulbs.



remember right, Dick had told me the coffee maker had come from the old Prices Good Food restaurant. Old timers would remember the cabins as

being across the river and by the north side of the bridge.

Another school classmate and friend, **Glen Timm** passed recently. He had previously donated his flight suit and other historic items that he thought would go nice in the museum. A good example, because if you think you have something to add to the Museum, the time to do it is while you are able. Your survivors may or may not follow your wishes.



Our financial friends are so important to us .

We salute our members and Donors

We so appreciate our Friends of the Museum, memberships, and donors. I try and recognize everyone and usually send a newsletter with donor's name as a thank you. As you can imagine, managing the museum generates a lot of paperwork and email, so we are pedaling about as fast as we can.



Donors this last quarter include:

Sandra Close **Brandy Chamberlin**
Kathryn Johnson **John Gale**
Robert Skans **Gina Stockstill**
Donald Lodmell **John Erkkila**
Robert and Maggie Nikisch
Katie Walter and Joe Taylor
Ralph Westermann – who also sends us postage stamps.

We completed some needed roof repairs on our **Montana Fiddlers Hall of Fame** last fall and recently received a \$500 donation from their Association to help with that. *Thank you!*

Annual Support Levels: Single \$50; Family \$100; Corporate \$200; Life \$1,000.

Membership includes free admission, newsletter and discount in our Gift Shop, plus the satisfaction that you are supporting our mission to preserve history.

Please take a moment and to enjoy our [YouTube videos](#) for an animated look at many of our displays!

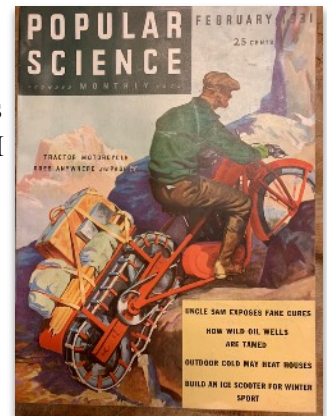


MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

In remembrance of former classmate and longtime Polson businessman, **Dick Shultz** of Shultz Refrigeration, his nephew, **Mike Brooks** donated a large antique coffee maker, a Lake View Court cabins sign, and misc. If I

Chief picker **Howard Hudson** is still bringing interesting items for us. Last quarter his picks included glass lamps, Coleman lanterns, advertising collectibles, service station lube cans, Montana books, etc.

Delbert Schneider donated a stack of *Popular Science* magazines from the 1920s and early 30s. I love the rich color and the imaginative and futuristic designs of the new inventions.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

You've probably heard an old timer exclaim, "You've got more things than a carters got pills". The main implication was that the traveling salesman in the day had a good stock of "Carter's Little Liver Pills" in his wagon. Sometimes the salesman of medical supplies was referred to as a Carter.

A related item for our medical

building was donated by **Dave Marshall**. A case containing 22 bottles or doses with a chart recommending which to take to cure you of anything from snakebite to digestive issues.

I searched the internet and looked at 60 pages of listings on eBay and couldn't find any bottles like this. I imagine this is circa 1910, but I know threaded tops were used in the 1890s.



MONTANA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit

How to make the most of your money for you and Montana: The Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC)

*Information from the Montana Community Foundation**
406-443-8313 • info@mtcf.org



Miracle of America Museum is sharing this exciting news from the Montana Community foundation. Montana is one of just a few states to offer a credit like this, and smart donors are using it. Cathy Cooney, Director of Donor Services, Montana Community Foundation explains:

"The Endowment Tax Credit is the best incentive we have for donors in Montana. We are raising approximately \$2-3 million a year for endowments at MCF every year just from donors wanting the tax credit."

The credit was established in 1997 to encourage individuals, businesses, and organizations to make lasting investments in their communities. The METC offers you a credit of up to \$10,000, per year, per individual, or \$20,000 per year for couples filing jointly. It also allows a credit of 20 percent of a gift's federal charitable deduction for a direct gift by a qualified business up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

Charitable deductions help lower your taxable income, but only the METC provides a direct credit toward your Montana taxes. **Every dollar of METC you qualify for is \$1 less that you will owe the state**

Planned gifts allow donors to maintain access to income during their lifetime, provide estate and tax planning tools, and build permanent wealth for Montana's charities, nonprofit organizations and local community foundations. Things like gift annuities, charitable trusts and some estate gifts fall into this category. Don't take our word for it. Here's what CPA Ron Yates says:

"My clients continue to be excited and very pleased to be able to permanently support the Montana charities of their choosing through planned gifts that provide large income tax savings up front and a potential income stream at retirement."

For more information, contact Philanthropy Officer Jim Bennett at 406-301-3918, jjim@mtcf.org.

**This information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice, please consult your attorney and/or tax professional.*

Montana Community Foundation, 33 S Last Chance Gulch, Ste. 2A Helena, MT 59601
406-443-8313 • Info@mtcf.org • www.mtcf.org

*We are open 9am to 5pm all year long.
Here's what recent visitors say about Miracle of America Museum . . .*

"One of our best experiences in Montana! We love to bring our family here. Can't wait to come back!"

"This is our first time here and spent 4 hours. We definitely haven't seen it all and will be back. What a treasure!"

"Best Museum we've ever been to! Thank you for your dedication to preservation of history!"

"Came here for my birthday present—so much fun! Will be back very soon. Need more time to take it all in!"

*With all the wars and rumors of wars, these antique postcards give us assurance that Jesus Christ will be returning and gives us hope.
With that knowledge, it is not too early to wish you a blessed Easter.*



Mark your calendar! Plan now to bring your family and friends to Live History days, July 16 and 17 for a safe, outdoor opportunity to see living history!

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