



Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
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OF MUSEUMS

Winter 2023

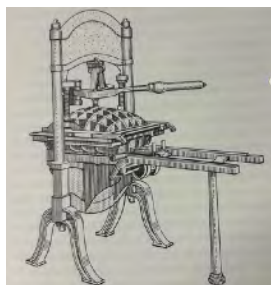
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Executive Board of Directors

Gil Mangels, Chief Executive Officer
and Board Chair; Helen Mangels, Secretary;
Ryan Gage, Treasurer;
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Art Mangels, Sam Allred, Carol Edger,
and Julie Weber

Donation Suggests Skills that We're Losing



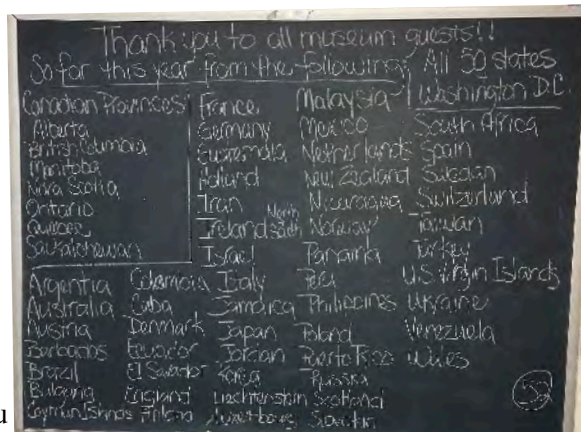
Mission Valley Printing in Ronan owner operators **Kim Ann and Kim Dan Koenig** donated books on our Washington press very much like the one pictured. It brings to mind that the people who had skills to demonstrate this, our Linotype, and all our printing equipment have gotten old and gone to the happy printing grounds.

Our plea is that if you or a friend could demonstrate any items at the museum, please interest a younger person and share your skills before you don't show up for breakfast.

We Welcome the World!

It's time for the winter issue, and while we'd enjoyed healthy visitation, it dropped off like the outside temperature. We are thankful that we had visitors from seven Canadian provinces, all 50 states, and residents from 52 countries including Liechtenstein, which is quite a record. Several visitors had been here before and brought their families or friends visiting from abroad.

We hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving, and as you prepare for the Christmas season that you remember the



real reason was the gift given to mankind in the stable at Bethlehem. And listen for the bells on Christmas Day.



Glacier Park Snowplow FWD Truck Nears Restoration

We've been busy on barn displays, and David is doing a nice job rebuilding the wooden cab on our FWD boom truck. The donor said it was originally a Glacier Park snowplow truck, later converted to a well drilling truck in the Creston, Montana area; and lastly used as a boom truck which is the

way we got it. We hope some pictures or provenance (proof) will surface once we post a picture of it.

Left to right: Original condition; FWD truck under restoration; current condition.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Coming all the way from East Wenatchee by special delivery, and donated by **Dan and Sally Feil** was some nice photographic equipment, a Gravely rototiller and manual, and collectible items from their folks' kitchen, medicine cabinet and other cubby holes – items that Depression era folks never threw away. The items are very useful as support memorabilia in many displays. The Gravely could be either walk-behind or ride-behind tractor that had over 30 attachments from lawn mowing, tillage, to snow removal. We have a dozen attachments and four tractors, all different years and styles.

Probably the most unique item was an unopened can of three "Rocket" plastic shuttlecocks. These will go in the exhibit of period sport memorabilia in the corner of our Teacherage.

Dan's father donated the 1930 Franklin that we turned into the crowd pleasing Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Probably the oldest Polson-related antique was donated by **Karol Peek Bird** in memory of her grandfather **Ole Oie**. At 19 years old, Ole brought this

One Way to Win at Sports

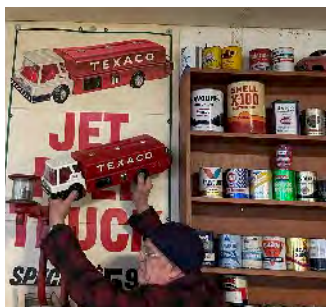
– Gil Mangels

Most sports have a competitive edge to them and players want to score and be a winner.

One time my daughter and I were having a game of badminton and we weren't worried about scoring, but by working together how long we could keep the birdie in the air. I remember that as a choice time for a daddy-daughter bonding experience in which we both came out the winner.

wooden trunk from Norway to America in 1891. By the time he arrived in Polson in 1909 he'd married Margaret and their marriage lasted 52 years before he passed. In 1910 he started a blacksmith shop where Valley Bank now stands across Third Avenue from Cove Deli. He worked the shop for 30 years. No pictures of his shop have surfaced.

Mark Scarbough donated a neat little electric trolling motor and a toy metal Texaco truck that kids probably begged their parents to buy. I'm holding it up next to the promotional sales poster that I've had on



display in the Auto Building for years.

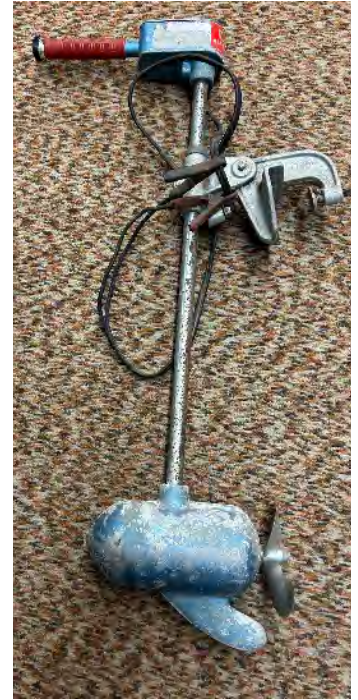
Chief picker, **Howard Hudson** never ceases to amaze me with the variety of items, like a slim box of circa 1940s nylon stockings, a box of tree grafting wax, a tiny bottle of wooden fishing rod varnish, a primitive barn beam boring auger, and a box of canning jar rubbers to just list a very few. Literally too many varied items to mention, but with our diversity most things fit in to make a display more complete and meaningful.

Polson locals, **Ted and Judy Eslick** donated a wooden kitchen primitive and a unique lead spraying gun used in auto body repairs and restoration. These date back at least to 1950. Because lead was easy to work with filling dents and seams on building customs and hot rods, the vehicles were commonly called "Lead Sleds."

Dennis and Carol Jones contributed early antique clothing, one outfit is on a mannequin in one of the auto displays.

Ray Burton brought in a nice pair of uncommon Rail Road lanterns.

Photos: Bottom left: Rocket shuttlecocks and Gravely manual; Gil hoists Texaco model, Ole's trunk, railroad lanterns. Top to bottom: electric trolling motor, lead spray gun, miscellaneous; orchardists' grafting wax; fruit jar rings.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Mower Returns “Home”

Call me a sentimental old fool, but the pictured antique Minneapolis Moline hay mower was my grandfather’s and I’d spent hours on the iron seat pretending I was mowing acres of hay. Then while I was away in the Service, my dad sold it.

Seventy-five years later, the grandson of the purchaser found it in a pasture corner. While it had seen some rough use, I was grateful to **John Sorenson** for giving it to me and helping load it. Fortunately I found a parts mower for enough good parts to restore it. I located a new ash tongue in Joliet. Such a long distance to haul, so I asked on Facebook and **Sean Marshall** offered to pick it up on his way back from Denver.

Photo below.



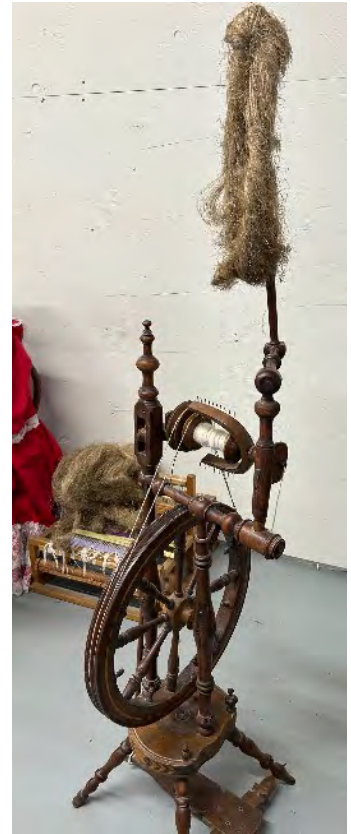
Top barn level is coming along. The flax/linen display was enhanced by a flax spinning wheel donated by **Anna Lonnevik**. We have decided this will be another textile display and include cotton as well. We haven’t yet found an old cotton dress or even an apron made from the cotton feed sacks with the pretty floral patterns on them. We’ll have a minor bit of wool included, but not draw from our major wool industry display in the main building.

Ken Doppler brought in two blacksmith vises and misc. cans from cleaning out his garage. Often the cans themselves are display items as well as the product.

Photos below: Ken’s garage items, and at right, Anna’s spinning wheel.



Just received a 2024 year calendar, gift of **Don Greytak**, 40+ year pencil artist from Havre. Rural farm and ranch families will relate to the action of the subjects and the minute detail in each drawing. See his work at www.dongreytak.com. Don has donated several prints over the years, many in the vintage motorcycle display.



We Salute our Members and Donors

Several faithful financial supporters have blessed our 501 C3 nonprofit museum last quarter, including **Billmayer Drilling, Bob and Sharon Fulton, Eric and Carolyn Hall, Robert and Maggie Nickisch, S. Ann Ross, and Ralph H. Westermann.** **Lee Barta** donated through Charles Schwab.

Your CPA or financial advisor can counsel you on how best to invest in the museum and receive a Montana Endowment Tax Credit through the Montana Community Foundation. There are or numerous ways to benefit yourself with tax breaks.

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.



We Remember These Friends of MOAM

The grim reaper has been overactive lately and I’m recognizing more names in the obituaries.

Museum friend **Bruce Ruby** who took photos of the kiddies in the cockpit of our fighter jet recently passed. As did **Clarence Brazil** who donated odds and ends over the years. Always to be counted on for a military vehicle driver in the parades or giving rides on Live History Days, **Henry (H.J.) Pieper** will be sorely missed. Most recently as I prepare this was **Dick Christopher**, a fan and financial friend.

Now might be a good time to talk with your financial adviser about helping to perpetuate the museum. There are many different ways to invest in us to benefit the next generations.

Third annual Winterfest Saturday, January 13, 2024!

Our Third annual Winter Fest will be Saturday, January 13, snow or not. Enjoy concessions, rides, demonstrations, and of course examining the largest display of unique and rare tools and toys of winter.

Anyone is invited to demonstrate or tell us about a winter sport you may be involved with. Contact me if you want to schedule a particular time and place on the grounds so we can list it on the schedule.

We will be demonstrating our newest acquisition of a TEE NEE that the last owner called the Terminator. I purchased it at a reasonable price. Candy Johnson of the Western Montana Vintage Snowmobile Enthusiast group has



emailed me that they would again like to participate. **Display YOUR sled – Win a trophy and help MOAM!** For folks wishing to display a sled for judging and win a trophy, visitors will be invited to vote for their “Fan Favorite.” The Vintage Snowmobile Enthusiasts are doing this for a museum donation which we appreciate.

Save the Date – Live History Days 2024!

We’re announcing our Annual two-day Live History Days event July 20-21, 2024. It’s bigger and better every year.

We hope to give you time to figure out how you and your family could actively participate, or plan a few hours here for your annual family or friends reunion.

Please enjoy our quarterly newsletter and share it with your family. If you are no longer interested in receiving a printed copy a note or phone call is appreciated.



Presumed 1920s vintage Christmas card from the Darling and Behan department store in Petoskey, Michigan, promoting their Standard Sewing Machines. Graphic shows children decorating their snowman with a Christmas crown.



'Tis the Season to Heed the Good News

Of course the big and most important news is the upcoming celebration of our Lord and Savior’s birth. To me it doesn’t matter the exact day or even month or that the typical art work show the wise men in Bethlehem, when they visited some two years later in Egypt. The important thing is that He came, that He taught, He suffered and died for each of us and was resurrected and as He promised, He will come again in glory.

Until then enemies will try and destroy believers and America, which has been the bastion of freedom since the Constitution was established.

Please see some of my short YouTube videos about America. In my opinion our nation’s problems are because we have largely rejected God and are not obeying the original Constitution.

Our foreign visitors especially appreciate our efforts to try and reinstall strong belief in America.



**Open 9am to 5 pm
Year-Round!**



Enjoy the Museum’s YouTube Channel!
We’ve added QR codes, and WiFi is available throughout the grounds to enhance your enjoyment of our displays. Learn “the rest of the story!”

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