



# Miracle of America Museum

Autumn 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## Thanks to great volunteers— Live History Days well-received

If the smiles and screams of delight are any indication, this year’s Live History Days was a success and that wouldn’t have happened without some very good friends. Awesome **Amber Ashby Learn**, husband **Roger** and **extended family** totally ran the concessions and even acquired some of the donated food.

We did very well with thanks going to **Mission General Store, Safeway, Super 1, and Walmart**, for donations of food and supplies. **George at Polson Bay Grocery** donated gasoline to operate the trains, tractors, and army rigs. We couldn’t have done that without the help of **David Bosley, Paul Bonelli**, and the **H.J. Peiper** and **Jamie Shepard families**. **Harry** helped with the can crusher and tennis ball cannon which has become one of

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## Executive Board of Directors

- Gil Mangels, President
- Cathleen Wilde, VP; Ned Wilde, Treas.
- Nancy Pray, Secretary
- Gracia Normandeau Jones
- Kendall Dupuis Mike Maddy
- Stan Cohen Art Mangels Annette Schiele
- Advisory Director** • Jim Pomajevich

## Generation Gap?

Summer 2013 has been a real lesson for me to see how I handled stress. Sometimes, not so well. In spite of all the terrific volunteers, we were still short of help for Live History Days. It takes a lot of folks to run the many exhibits. Persons I had previously been able to depend on were unable to make it this year, for one reason or another. This problem is not unique to just us. Other museums and shows around the nation are experiencing

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“Do we really have to get out?” Kids enjoy the Army Jeep during Live History Days and MOAM.



Curtis Dudley came from Utah and demonstrated the black powder rifle to an interested onlooker.

# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Recent item donations were amazingly diversified. **Susan Haack Aders** and husband **Willie** had me come over to her grandparents place and sold me some items and donated others. The latter included a Mall 2-man chainsaw, Evinrude snowmobile and a nice condition toy tractor with a pull-behind duckfoot cultivator. Just in case you didn't – and always wanted to know – the cultivators were called “duckfeet” because the replaceable shovels were in the shape of a duck's web foot. As the cultivator was pulled forward, the teeth or shovels would go under the surface and cut off or dislodge the



weeds while loosening up the soil.

Of the many items that “chief picker” **Howard Hudson** brought in recently, my favorite was a little parts box with a washing machine seal inside. The artwork of the early day



*We salute our  
Members and Cash donors  
Family memberships and cash  
donations this last quarter have  
come in from:*

**James Compton**      **Patricia Wooldridge**  
**Frank and Lulu Stock**      **Pat Deyo**  
**Stan Cohen**      **Richard Nash**  
**Larry and Dorothy Ashcraft**  
**Kelly Morrison**      **Earl Serry**  
**Gordon and Donna Terry**  
**Maxine Learn**      **Carl Skabronski**



*Newsletter layout courtesy of  
Carmine Mowbray of*

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Polson, Montana

packaging and advertising could be very captivating, and relates to the freedom of expression and speech that our Founding Fathers envisioned.

News that's fit to print! **Dick Giffin** brought us some goodies for our vintage print shop that he used when he worked at the Flathead Courier.

**Andy and Debbie McKane** donated his father's medical bag from when he was aboard the USS Oneida (APA221) during WWII and the USS Swordfish (SSN579) in 1959 and 60, and also a Zenith Transoceanic radio.

**Mary Jane Siegford** – fluted gas cans, farm scythe, Air-Way Sanitizer vacuum cleaner and a well used, but beautiful MOBO child's steel riding horse;

**Ettie Kastle** found and donated another box of her husband, Norman's WWII medals and spoils of war souvenirs;



**Charles Tremblay** brought more photo equipment including an awesome Burke and James glass plate slide projector. When fully extended, it is 48" long.

**Kendall and Daylin Dupuis** used one of their sawmill loaders to snake some heavy equipment out of the woods for us.



Former classmate **Carl Skabronski** brought several boxes of interesting items. The most unique item which kind of looks like a surveyors level or transit is actually a medical instrument.



German made in the late 1800's, it was called a Saccharimeter and used to measure the amount of sugar in a solution, more specifically in the experimental chemistry analysis of urine sugar and albumen tests. The internet also alluded to the names of Penumbra and Polarimeter, so I now know as much about this thing as I do about operating a computer.



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the favorites. It was good to have **Ed and Anna Lonnevik** doing the spinning and later **Barbara Schrieder** joined them. **Virginia Nygaard** did her pine needle basket weaving, and **Dick Schieke** had a lot of people interested in his duck decoy carving.

The **Old Time Fiddlers** entertained Saturday afternoon which is always appreciated by people of all ages. **Bruce Ruby** helped at the T33 fighter jet trainer in which we had the canopy open for photo ops. **Erma Wall** put in extra time at the desk. **Larry Eslick** arranged for log donation by **Hunt's Timbers** and ran the sawmill on Saturday.

Granddaughter **Becky**, her husband **Curtis Dudley** and his folks came up from Utah to help. Curtis demonstrated black powder rifle shooting; and all, including nine-year-old great granddaughter **Sage**, helped wherever needed.

*What a "relief--"*

Thanks to **Ed and Bruce Brueckman** for delivering and donating the use of a porta-potty during Live History Days. He parked it at the distant corner of the village yard by the schoolhouse. **Janet and Scott Perry** were available for schoolhouse story reading and recess monitors in the playground. **Renate Shaffer** did blacksmithing on Saturday and was able to sell some of her creations. The wheelwright demo of installing iron rims (tyres) on the wooden fellows of the wagon wheels was interesting and demonstrated by museum friend **Jim Pomajevich**, assisted by **Bill Twigg** from Moscow, Idaho Carriage Company.



**LIVE HISTORY DAYS – 2013 – Dick Schieke had a lot of people interested in his duck decoy carving.**

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loss of help due to poor health of older participants as well as lack of interest by younger generations. This prompted me to wonder if we should continue having them, and I did state that this year's show might be the last. However, those in attendance had fun and expressed that they would like to see it continue.

What say you?

## Save Our Ship

The matching grant funds to build a protective roof, and start more preservation and restoration work was enhanced by donations from **Dick Matejovsky** and **Greater Polson Community Foundation**.

Occasionally visitors will just make a cash donation to help, like the French couple who handed us \$25 cash for the Paul Bunyan fund.

**Can you help us reach our goal of \$8,500 to cover the Paul Bunyan?**



## Gifts that keep on giving

Long time museum friends, **George and Brenda Brimhall** are "gifts" that keep on giving. Besides their annual major donation (lifetime category) George also sponsored a three-year commitment for the museum in a laminated tabletop ad which will appear at Fiesta en Jalisco Mexican restaurant sometime in November. Then, George brought in a friend, **Jeff Whiteman**. Jeff had driven by the Museum many times for the last 15 summers, and was impressed enough to become a major donor as well.

***We still need to greatly enlarge the Museum endowment fund to keep it going for future generations.***

**Miracle of America Museum**

**36094 Memory Lane**

**Polson, MT 59860**



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**Here's what some of our many visitors said about the museum recently:**

8/23: *Wonderful! Interesting!*

8/25: *The most amazing experience! Thank you!*

8/30: *Excellent! We don't have such a museum in France. Thanks!*

8/30: *Absolutely amazing. I've never been anywhere like it.*

8/28: *The BEST!*

9/1: *A most amazing place – Rivals the Smithsonian. Truly and experience!! God Bless.*

9/5: *This was/is fantastic! Lots of fun going down Memory Lane. Also we applaud your mission to preserve our freedom through education about our past.*

## Membership

Membership to the Miracle of America Museum is tax-deductible and allows you free admission, newsletters and 10% discount in our gift shop.

We really appreciate our supporters who remember to send donations.

A star beside your name on the address label means this may be the last newsletter you receive unless we hear from you. If you wish to remain on our mailing list, please let us know.

Family membership: \$25 to \$99

Annual Sustaining: \$100 to \$199

Corporate Sustaining: \$200 to \$999

Lifetime: \$1000 or above

In spite of the difficult economy and partially because of it, our Endowment fund needs to be enlarged. Only the interest income is used each year and the banks are presently not paying much. The board is again asking that you please consider donating the museum 1% to 5% of your estate to the Miracle of America Museum endowment fund.

If enough folks choose this sort of gifting it would help insure continued preservation of our collections and displays for your posterity to enjoy. If you agree, please consider discussing this with your estate planner or lawyer.

**Thank you very much for your support**