



# Miracle of America Museum

WINTER 2012

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860 406-883-6804 [www.miracleofamericamuseum.org](http://www.miracleofamericamuseum.org) • [info@miracleofamericamuseum.org](mailto:info@miracleofamericamuseum.org)

## Belated Thank you

No sooner had the last newsletter gone to press, when more items began to appear. I always fear forgetting someone or something, or misspelling a name, and by the time I proofread it several times, my eyes as well as my brain glaze over. Somehow I missed giving Billy Morin of Lake Co. Land Services credit for a beautiful floral arrangement at the memorial service for Joanne.

Additional memorial cash donations in memory of Joanne include Royalee Bishop, John and Marilyn McGrew, Irv and Mimi Milheim, Polson Bay Grocery, and Bobby and Lisa Unser.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.



### 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 Board of Directors**  
Jim Pomajevich

## Gil Finally Gets Away

With the help of receptionist Berna Gilham and a few gracious volunteers, I was able to get away for a week on a mixed business and pleasure trip to the Portland, OR area. I took Grandson Ned and his family on the Holiday Express, a live restored 4-8-4 steam train on a 40-minute ride along the river. (Ned has taken over Joannes's position as museum treasurer as she had been grooming him for that responsibility.) Of course Santa added to the excitement. The Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation maintains three of these iron giants. You may see one of these operating on YouTube. The "4" indicates the smaller wheels (trucks) fore and aft of the huge drivers to help support the heavy engine. The middle number ("8" in this case) stands for the eight (four on a side) large drivers which are coupled to the steam engines on each side of the boiler. Here at the MOAM we operate a much smaller engine that runs on compressed air rather than steam. It's an "0-4-0". It is short enough that it doesn't need the support trucks and only has four drivers, two on a side. I just didn't want another Christmas to go by without you knowing that.

Jim Pomajevich, friend of the museum, lives part time in Vancouver, WA, and he took me to see his antique John Deere tractors and then to the Pearson Air Museum at Fort Vancouver. While they do not

*continued, pg 2*

*Charitable giving still has Tax benefits –*

## Endowment must grow to ensure Museum future

Memorials and memberships are automatically deposited in the savings/endowment account to help the future financial stability and operation of the museum. The principal fund remains intact in perpetuity. Because only the interest may be used for operating expenses, we must increase the endowment amount by at least 20 times of what it

now is. WITH THE UNCERTAINTY OF OUR NATION'S ECONOMY AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE TAX LAWS, why don't you get advice from your tax accountant or attorney about gifting the museum before the year's end? Your contribution is tax-deductible at this time.

have a large number of airplanes, they have some one-of-a kind items and are the most kid-friendly aviation museum I have seen. Their director was happy to take a handful of our brochures and gave me an equal amount of theirs that are now in our info rack.

Another friend, Cindy Iverson – whose father I had bought one of the museums vintage racing motorcycles from – was kind enough to drive me to Astoria and the Columbia River Maritime Museum. En route on Route 26 at Elsie, OR, we happened onto Camp 18 Logging Museum and Restaurant. It is set up nicely to do a driving tour of many exhibits and since it was drizzling and we hadn't allowed time enough, we just did that. After getting back home and Googling them, I'd like to go back and try the restaurant too.

The Maritime Museum is a must-see with excellent interactive exhibits and state-of-the-art

technology that puts you right there in the water with the ship wrecks or on the Coast Guard cutter. The staff was about as cold as the water though and their policy is not to put out other attraction's brochures. In spite of their exclusiveness, I took a stack of their brochures for our info rack.

We ate at Fort George restaurant and took museum brochures in with us. Well, our waiter's grandparents had lived in Polson many years ago. Their name was Helmer, but he didn't know if they were connected with the local Chevrolet dealership, Helmer and Harris, though. I am often appalled and disappointed at how little the younger generation knows about their ancestors. Another restaurant employee – on seeing our brochure – said he had grandparents in Kalispell and I happened to know them from church activities. The restaurant wanted more of our brochures to put out.

## ***Veterans Enjoy MOAM hospitality***

For Armistice/Veterans day November 11, we gave free admission and refreshments to veterans. Donating food and drink products for the occasion were Safeway, Super 1 and Walmart, all whom we wish to thank.



***We salute our***

**Members and Cash donors**

**Rick and Karen Anderson**

**David Byrne**

**Kathy Gray**

**Nellie Heckman,**

**Joseph T. Jones**

**Polson Rotary**

**Bert and Kathy Smith**



My favorite Christmas poem (printed at right) was written when I was just four months old to the day, by then-Lake Co. Superintendent of Schools, Mary Louise Graves. You may recall seeing it in our newsletter a few years ago. Without apology, I want to include it this year, because we are still sending our sons, (and now daughters also) to right the wrongs that have been done.

*Newsletter layout courtesy of  
Carmine Mowbray of*

 **CLARITY**  
Communications  
Polson, Montana

## **There Shall Be Candles Still**

*Mary Louise Graves,  
December 24, 1942*

There shall be candles still  
Sending their gleam across a world at war;  
On our hearth shall burn the Yule log,  
And a wreath of holly shall adorn our door.  
These things? All these . . . with him away?  
On our quiet hill . . .  
There shall be candles still.  
Because he went away  
Our candles burn this Christmas night  
With brighter gleam, with sacred light,  
And 'midst their glow I breathe a prayer  
For our son – yours and mine – Somewhere . . .  
"Oh, God, please keep him safe, wherever he be  
On land, in air . . . across the sea,"  
On our quiet hill . . .  
There shall be candles still.  
As Mary gave the world a son  
That Peace on Earth might be,  
So we have given, as she gave then,  
Our son to right the wrongs  
That have been done,  
And bring Good Will to Men  
On our quiet hill . . .  
There shall be candles still.

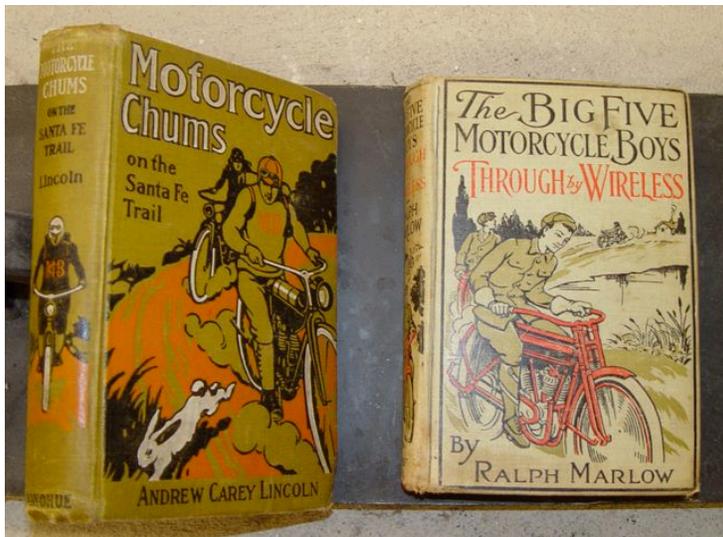


# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

During WW11, a perfect way to remember your mail-hungry serviceman as well as send something practical was to mail a special envelope containing 10 razor blades with plenty of room for correspondence. The store display containing several ready-to-mail folders was in Frank Emory's Jewelry on Main Street in Polson. In 1946, Ed and Eileen Krubsack purchased the business. They operated there for many years before moving the business to Ronan. This very rare item was donated by Judy Krubsack Stone.



**Cindy Iverson's family** donated a couple of juvenile motorcycle books and a few other things in memory of their father. There are several subtitles in this series of books and I did not have these two, so that was a bonus.



**Howard Hudson**, our #1 picker, brought in another two or three loads of potential memorabilia since our last newsletter. One neat item now on display in our "Think Snow" building is a homemade "skip-jack" which is a short one-runner sled with an elevated seat.

I'll make a greater effort to catch up on some of the other donations next year. In fact, have a happy new year!

**They don't make them like they used to . . .**

Pictured are three candle holder clips to attach to the branches of your tree. They are part of our vintage Christmas memorabilia and I'm certainly not brave enough to use them. *For those who read our newsletter on the internet, the photos show better in color.*



## 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**

*Miracle of America Museum*

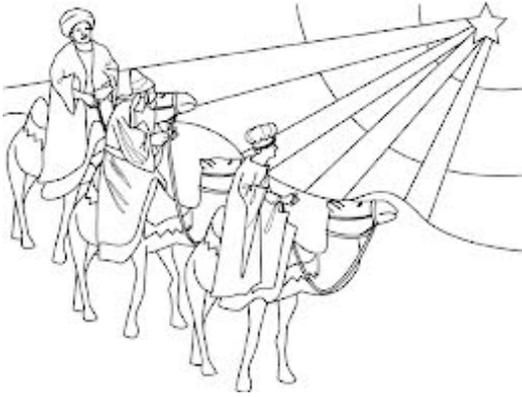
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*Polson, MT 59860*

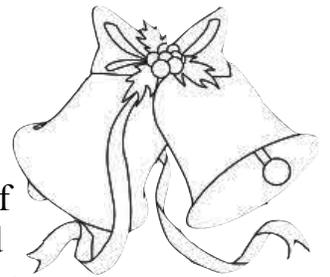


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59860  
Permit #89



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.



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*Merry Christmas, Gil*