



Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
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OF MUSEUMS

Winter 2020

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; David Bauer, Board Chair; Helen Mangels, Secretary; Ryan Gage, Treasurer;
Board members: Brandy Wallace, Cathleen Wilde, Art Mangels, Sam Allred, Carol Edger,
and Nola Dupuis-Catlett

Dear Friends of the MOAM,

Despite today's challenges, the Museum continues striving to enrich lives and educate impressionable minds. We witness family bonds strengthening as old and young explore history together. We pledge our commitment to you, our patrons, the community, and the State to continue being wise stewards of your gifts and donations and to continue to build links from the past to lessons for the future.

If you have any stories you would like to share with us about the museum or its contents please email them to

info@miracleofamericamuseum.org

Thank you,

Cathleen Wilde, MOAM Board Member

MOAM seeks dedicated board member—

We are seeking to fill a board opening. The American Alliance of Museums describes the work as: “Board members have many responsibilities within the board’s broad roles of setting the organization’s direction, ensuring necessary resources, and providing oversight. They are guardians of the mission, ensure compliance with legal and financial requirements, and enforce ethical guidelines for their organization. They are policymakers, fundraisers, ambassadors, partners with the chief executive, and strategic thinkers. They monitor progress, evaluate the performance of the organization and the chief executive, and demonstrate integrity in everything they do on behalf of the organization.”

If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact us.

Museum mission richly rewarded; Endowment gets boost

Miracle of America Museum thrives in spite of the pandemic and many blessings have transpired. The fall season has brought us Summer. Summer Shade, a delightful 12 year-old young lady who has been on an extended home schooled camping trip with her mother Christine.

At the conclusion of their leisurely visit here, Summer handed me a folded up bill, because she wanted to help the museum. It turned out to be a \$100 bill — the profits she had earned selling baked goodies at one of their campsites. A refreshing glimpse of our youth who have been taught properly. Her mother undoubtedly set examples of generosity; and when she returned two days later, Christine gifted the museum endowment fund \$5,000.

I asked them to share in their own words, what motivated them to stop in the first place and then make such generous gifts.

Comments from 12 year-old Summer Shade:

“The Miracle of America Museum is the perfect place for a school field trip and a really neat place to visit. Actually that

was the reason we went, for a new experience: on an ordinary school day. The ‘couple hour’ trip turned into a two-day excursion, and Professor Mom and I still haven’t seen it all. In the main building (the largest out of 43 buildings), I saw old motorbikes, a fainting couch, and a collection of antique toys. I was surprised at the amount of mousetraps the museum had. One of my favorite parts was the section on the United States Constitution. I am really starting to understand the importance of my civil rights and the meaning of the Amendments. When I needed a brain break (there was so much to take in) – I had fun goofing around on the old playground. I can’t wait to come back and see more!” (Christine’s comments are on page 4.)



A thorn between two roses: Summer, Gil and Christine Shade during one of their visits.

It brings us joy when visitors catch the mission of the museum. Another adult visitor was excited to “learn” something about the Founding Fathers at the Constitutional Convention and get one of our free pocket constitutions. And still another young lady, a recent high school graduate, commented on how refreshing it was to see something so patriotic. She felt the patriotic spirit here and brought her friend all the way from Missoula just to see us the following week.

MOAM display brings WWII context into focus

Warnings that are unheeded can result in tragic consequences. Two WWII leaflets dropped over Japan by US bombers urged the Japanese people to pressure their Emperor to surrender to avoid further wartime desecration and to reap the blessings of guaranteed safety. It was not in the enemy's mental/psychological makeup for them to surrender.

Japanese society regarded surrender as a dishonorable thing.

Of course the two Atomic bombs finally broke the will of the Emperor which led to the end of WWII. To prove the destruction of the bombs, compare before and after historic photos of the damage done.

To find redemption in the action, and to silence some of the critics, see current pictures of the beautiful cities in Japan, after we forgave them and helped rebuild their country under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur.

At right: World War II collage at MOAM deserves close inspection.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS



This heavy but much welcomed donation is a 6 hp Stover flywheel engine brought in with other pioneer and primitive artifacts by **Will Thrasher**. His grandfather, the original owner had built a steel wheeled cart (truck) for this around a century ago and used this power source in the family sawmill.

A beautiful taffeta bonnet from circa 1850 tops the gifts of this last quarter and makes a very fitting completion to



our lady in black. It was originally worn by Mary Eason Whiddon and donated by her great granddaughter, **Carolyn Palmquist**. It complements a beautiful dress that had been in a storage closet and now goes on display.



Some rather common donated items familiar to many my age, elicit a lot of memories and we appreciate folks having saved them or keeping a lookout for them. For example, as a youth on the farm during field work or harvesting, a necessary item was our water bag hanging on the tractor seat, truck mirror arm, or combine platform. Thanks to **Rod Johnson** for bringing one in to us.

Easton Weingart delivered a running Cushman 3 wheel trickster. While it suffers a bit from the rust bunny, it will be handy in working around the yard.

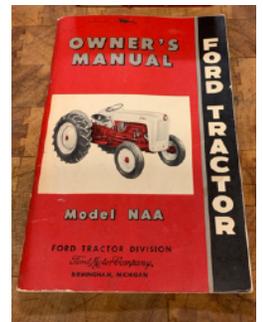
Howard Hudson, our chief picker is always finding something to complement displays, especially in the Glacier Park or scouting arena. He also brings us display fixtures and useful hardware.

Another faithful picker is **Lulu Stock**. While most folks might not think

a box of toothpicks is very interesting, what is the last thing you did when leaving a restaurant? It will be in our fountain/restaurant area.



Vehicle and equipment owner/operator manuals can come in very handy or just embellish an exhibit. Lulu's donation of this manual is greatly appreciated.



Delbert Hawkins donated some historic political and school house items and useful iron for restoration and sculptures.



His sister **Cleora Paro** donated a nice vintage snow toboggan, like the one pictured here.



History over Censorship

As far as this museum goes, we maintain that historical correctness rules over being politically correct.

Case in point: I seldom look at my internet spam file, but something prompted me and I found one letter that looked important. It was an email from Jim Thorp of Idaho wondering if I would be interested in the Nazi flag that his father



had captured in the war and brought home as a souvenir folded up in the Ration box, pictured above in the collage photo.

Fortunately he had included his phone number, because my email reply was

spammed. It is ridiculous in my opinion that a soldier who had fought against the evil Nazi empire would have any nefarious motives susceptible to censorship.

Servicemen brought home other items as souvenirs or spoils of war. The political correctness police that had spammed both of us, need some history lessons before they become as bad as the enemy.

**We're open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
all year long!**

The Museum Gift shop can help with your gift giving needs with meaningful and reasonably-priced stocking stuffers, books, collectibles and more. Model Army jeeps and halftracks like the one in front of the museum, beautiful pottery and around 100 figurine horses to choose from. Don't forget the finger tops as well!

Shopping for that person who already "has it all?" Consider a Museum membership! No wrapping or size to worry about! Help MOAM preserve history for posterity. You can choose any amount and it is entirely tax deductible to the extent of the law. Your contribution goes into the MOAM Endowment, or your choice of projects, in the recipient's name.



Below: It's hard to capture in photos the huge variety of curios for sale in our gift shop. Come see for yourself!



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS, *continued*

Mrs. Tom Farrell was one of our early donors by donating her husband's WWII Army uniform and other collectibles. Just last week, her daughter, **Carol Farrell** donated some nice household antiques including shaving equipment, a sad iron, curling irons, and the pictured magic lantern slide projector with about 50 four-frame slides that had been her grandmother's. We won't try to display them here, but these German made slides are in very vivid color and children would entertain themselves for hours by viewing cartoon characters, scenery and geography. These were invented as early as the 17th century with candles for the light source. I am guessing this one is from the 1800s.



Meet Robbie the Robot – Perhaps the most unique gift this last quarter was "born" in Butte in 1960 at the hands of high school senior, Arthur Heidrick for a regional science fair. An electronic whiz, Arthur had his father bring home leftover Butte Mine blasting wire,



salvaged parts from pin ball machines, radios and misc.other mechanical and electronic devices. After six months, Arthur had created this "Tin Man" who could even vocally answer simple questions with a yes or no, move its hands

and grip objects. Now in its new home at the Museum, Tin Man has the moniker Robbie the Robot, and joins other creatures in the Museum's main sculpture area.

Using the future to "enlighten" the Past.

Not very many of our village buildings have electricity or lighting in them. Granted, many of them don't need it, even on an overcast day. However some are a bit dark. Museum friend, **Jim Pomajevich** funded a solar panel unit to use in the dark end of the General Store. The unit is hardly noticeable, and the extra light does help, even on overcast days.

This model does not use a battery, so is maintenance free. It does only work in daylight hours, but we normally don't have the village open at night anyhow. Thank you Jim!



We salute our Members and Donors

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.

Numerous financial donations have come in several membership categories and just outright donations which go into our endowment fund.

We also benefit from Go Fund Me, Network for Good and using Amazon Smile, when you use the name Miracle of America Story Inc. We are not always aware of who benefits us that way. As far as all other donors, please forgive me for not writing a quick personal thank you, and accept this newsletter mention as appreciation for your kindness and

investment to preserve history.

Also please forgive me if I have inadvertently overlooked anyone. As far as I can tell by my pile of notes, kudos go to: **Lee and Naomi Barta, Rod Johnson/Fidelity Title, Bob and Sharon Fulton, Duane and Lisa Lohr, Torry MacLean, Buck and Karen Wood and Betty Fritz.**

If you have occasion to see these folks or do business with them, please tell them how much you appreciate their support. Thank you all, so much.

Easy and secure ways to support MOAM

We encourage people to shop at home, but when you shop using Amazon Smile and wish to select MOAM as your charity, note that we are listed as *Miracle of America Story Inc.*

Occasionally someone will set up a GoFundMe option on our Facebook page. We appreciate this also, and Facebook users may see that option from time to time.



Museum Visitor's own words . . .

"The Miracle of America Museum is a special gift to all ages. I spent two full days there with my daughter, and was blown away at how much there is to see and learn! The virtues upon which our country was founded have sustained America throughout the decades – truly is a miracle!

I was moved to partner with Miracle of America Museum because I want to see these virtues passed on to future generations. What better way to do this than by educating young minds on the "Miracle of America." – *Christine Shade*

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6



See the life-size Nativity scene beneath the canopy in front of the Museum.

**You are cordially invited to bring your family and friends
to Live History days, July 17 and 18, 2021
For a safe, outdoor opportunity to see
living history!**



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