



Miracle of America Museum

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Winter 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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UFO seen at Polson Christmas Parade of Lights

One Grandmother had to chase her grand kids who ran after the UFO to bum a ride. Actually, when you think about it, once a "UFO" is identified, it becomes just a "Flying Object." If it has landed, it is no longer flying, so it just becomes an "Object." So, to fess up, it was our "object" in the parade, navigated by David.

Its message:

For an out of this world experience, see the Miracle of America Museum.



The Spirit of the Season

I encourage you to look up Longfellow's poem/song. "I heard the Bells on Christmas Day." Our prayer to all of you is that the knowledge of the mission of the Christ Child can bring you an inner peace in spite of the world's problems, just as the Christmas bells brought peace to Longfellow.

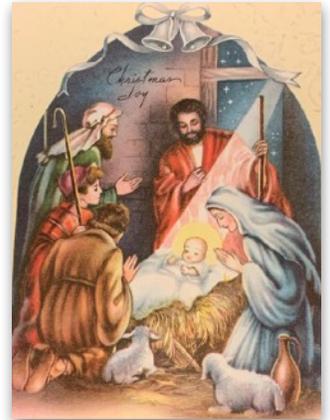
MOAM Hosts 18,000 Visitors This Year

Thanksgiving week is behind us and we are getting our first real snow. I'll be rushing to get this newsletter mailed before Christmas. Several folks opted to receive it by email saving us about a dollar each, which we appreciate. That also makes it easy to share with family and friends if they desire.

In spite of illnesses, fires, and numerous problems worldwide, we feel really blessed. A record number of visitors, 18,000, even with the Canadian border closure. Our international visitors came from 35 different countries. It is exciting to see so many younger folks taking an interest in history and especially liking our patriotic displays and messages. Repeat visitors and friend or family referrals are up

Highways Signs are Effective – Seeking More Locations

We are so thankful for our location and easy access, and wouldn't trade it for any place in the area. Many see our road signs. If anyone has what you think would be a good sign site, please let us know. We receive compliments on our simple message and design. We try and place them in spots that won't block a scenic view and keep them relatively small.



These visitors were from Jamison, PA:
"We had a great visit. Thank you so much for the hard work and commitment of sharing a piece of history with us. God Bless You and Yours."

Join MOAM for New Winter Motorized Activities January 15, 9 am to 5 pm

Currently we are planning a first annual winter activity at the museum offering rides in or on, and demonstrations of several of our winter snow machines. We will hold it snow or not on Saturday January 15, from 9 am to 5 pm. Jennifer at Blacktail Mountain Ski Area says that we should have snow by then.

We would like this to be a winter fund raiser, but we will

honor standard admission of \$5 for ages 2-12; \$10 over 12.

Enjoy hot chocolate and apple cider at a dollar a cup. If any snow sports groups would like to demonstrate or display, please contact Gil ahead of time at 406-883-6804. We also need responsible operators that day as well. Since some of the machines are rather non-traditional, we will give an orientation ahead of time. Safety is of the utmost concern. Pictured are

some of the units we hope to use. Any tips will go toward the non-ethanol premium gas we must use.



Visitors don't seem to tire of seeing many of the rare vehicles they had seen on previous visits. Case in point is the 1929 Oakland Landau Sport Sedan that was beautifully restored by the late Floyd and Ruth Mauth of Missoula and



has been on loan here for over 30 years. The Overland company was taken over by the Pontiac Company. The son, Terry, later inherited the Oakland and liked it here on display, so offered to make an outright donation of half of its appraised value. A gracious donor who wished to remain anonymous helped with one half of the remaining cost, so MOAM now holds the title.

While we are talking about motorized vehicles, two interesting pieces came in last quarter. We might call them the Beauty and the Beast. "Beauty" is a beautifully home built snowmobile, circa mid 1970s by William Weaver. He was a master Electrician at Anaconda Aluminum plant in Col. Falls for 30 years. He was also a master at tinkering and built the

pictured snowmobile using an engine from a generator used in a bomber aircraft, according to the family. He did a professional job and the family used it many times to drag elk out of the woods during hunting season. David got it running.

Pictured beside "Beauty" is the "Beast." It is definitely ugly. Commonly called "Doodlebugs," they were homemade tractors. During the Depression and other hard times, farmers couldn't afford new tractors, so they built them out of parts from piles of scrap iron. This is different from the other two in our collection. It used parts from two different years of Model A Fords, a rear axle and auxiliary transmission from a Model TT Ford truck, and front wheels from a V-8 Ford. It was donated by brother-in-law, Gary Abbey.



Our motorized snow machines now number 50, with some very rare units. See page 1 for news on our new winter motorized event!

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

"Gilding the Lily" is an archaic phrase implying that artists would use gold paint (gild) to paint a lily which was already considered the most beautiful of all flowers, to try



and make it even more beautiful. I have recently done that by adding a beautiful necklace to our already beautiful school marm in the 1912 Green Mountain School. This necklace was donated to us by **Phyllis Fulkerson** who set up our beauty shop back in the day, but moved to Lake Havasu, AZ several years ago. Her late husband, **Glen**, whose family used to have a dairy near Fulkerson Corner just east of Polson on Hwy 35, donated numerous dairy items now displayed in the dairy barn which miraculously escaped our recent fire.



Among other handyman duties, David has been busy rebuilding a large heavy duty bobsled used for logging. Thanks to Dupuis Lumber on Turtle Lake Road just off Hwy 35 for donating large beams for this project.



Dan Sharp sent us 12 WWII headline newspapers.

Jan Boyle brought in some antique postcards, early Cub and Boy Scout uniforms from the late 50s, and misc. collectibles.

Lee Manicke donated misc. horse tac, pack saddle, spurs, and misc.

Chief picker, **Howard Hudson** keeps finding unique collectibles like the miniature padlocks, pictured at right, one dated 1887, pictured next to a dime for size comparison. He also facilitated the donation of the afore mentioned snowmobile and even delivered it from

Kalispell. He also donated 12 gal of new hydraulic oil which came in handy, because we had to rebuild the lift cylinders on our museum forklift.



James Adley donated a very complete and compact Vietnam War period mine detector. Land mines hidden just below ground took a devastating toll on personnel, vehicles and civilians alike.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS



Marine Corps veteran **John Miller** is moving out of the area and donated three nice show cases and misc. uniforms, flags, posters, field gear, etc. The famous Christy poster actually had a hidden message. Women were openly joining the Navy starting in 1917, but the message, after attracting the attention of the young men with a beautiful woman, implied that if you are a real man, you'd join the Navy instead of the other branches of service.

Ruth Caudill donated a Boy Scout Signal set to teach Morse Code, WWII newspapers, etc.

Donald Wallace brought in a few historical political pins and a personal letter from President Nixon to his father

Harold Wallace when he was running for congress.

Illa Hilliard and relatives donated three boxes of WWII newspapers, a Navy Air uniform, flight helmets and radio gear.

SBA Grant Appreciated

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to **Steve Clairmont** of Mission West and **Ryan Gage** of Gage Accounting for getting us a large SBA grant to recoup most of the loss of business due to the covid pandemic.

Live History Volunteer Appreciated

How many things can you blame on a "senior moment"? One that comes to mind is my forgetting to mention the volunteer help of **Tammi Baer**, whose cleverly painted little rocks during live history days were a delight for the kiddies and she also helped in the restoration of the reaper mentioned in the Fall newsletter.



MOAM Adds Videos for Your Enjoyment

We've added another important groupings on our YouTube playlist titled, *America: Defenders of Liberty*

I hope you all have looked at least at some of our videos. So easy to find and only takes a minimal amount of your time.



Young folks who visited us in November left this message in our Guest Book :

"Everything was super fun to look at! Thanks! Wheeeee! Actually, zero suggestions. This place FAR exceeded our expectations.

We love your message!"

Our financial friends are so important to us



We salute our members and Donors

Thanks to you all, your donations and money from our tip jars, we were able to accumulate enough to send a \$10,000 check to our Endowment Fund for this last quarter.

Endowment funds are invested in the Montana Community Foundation. Interest and gains from the corpus of the Fund are used to sustain the Museum.

Donors include:

Glacier Bank
Wanda Maxson
Wilfred Kenmille
Dave Sergent and his
Chevron Matching
Employee funds
Brimhall family

Phyllis Fulkerson
Robert and Maggie Nickisch
Terry Lovelace
Bob and Sharon Fulton
Bill Hutchins
Eric and Carolyn Hall
John and Nancy Glueckert.

Did you know this may reduce your taxes?

Taxpayers who itemize can generally claim a deduction for charitable contributions to qualifying organizations. For calendar year 2021, the law allows taxpayers to apply **up to 100%** of their Adjusted Gross Income; or \$300 per person if you take the standard deduction. If you donated items and have a receipt, the value of those could lower your itemized tax bill too.



This newsletter may be viewed online. Please go to our website and click the Newsletter tab for clearer color photos:
Miracleofamericamuseum.org

Would you like to contribute something valuable, without costing you a dime?

Become a Board Member of Miracle of America Museum!

We are seeking a person who is passionate about preserving American History. If you have skills in social media, we could use your help. Give as much time as you can. Gain an invaluable sense of fulfillment. Call 406-883-680.

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

Need ideas for a special gift this Christmas?

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!

Looking for ways to avoid accumulating "stuff?"

Stumped for a gift for someone 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.



*Wishing you
the warmth of the season and the
blessings of Christmas
and good health
in the New Year!*



**Mark your calendar! Plan now to bring
your family and friends
to Live History days, July 16 and 17, 2022
For a safe, outdoor opportunity to see
living history!**



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