



Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
AMERICAN ASSOC.
OF MUSEUMS

Summer 2017

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Gil forced to light duty while new hip heals

The best news of the quarter was the addition of Sam Allred to our Board of Directors. Owner of Appliance Care, he has an appreciation for history and the exuberance of youth.

We've had visitors from 49 states – Delaware being the holdout – and visitors from 22 countries so far in 2017.

Some of our vintage battery collection is pictured at left. I really like the rich colors and early day graphics. You will have to see the colored version on our website. Of course, a battery has to have two poles, a positive as well as a negative. Some folks want only a mention of the positive. However, in this newsletter, I'd like to give you a view from the driver's seat, a glimpse in the rear view mirror, and a dose of reality. Please hold on and stick with me as we will mention both negatives and positives.

I had a total left hip replacement on May 30 and am still on subscribed pain meds. Just sitting at his keyboard is literally a pain. The doctor just this week said everything is looking good, but I must remain on light duty at least through July. That means I won't be able to personally give rides, crank engines, help on the sawmill, or anything with lifting or twisting involved. Live History Days will go on, but help is appreciated. There is so much work to do and so little help, I fear that I will prolong my surgery healing process by overdoing.

David's broken wrist has been slow healing, and his allergies do not allow him to deal with the weeds and grass. While we have visitors from 49 states and 22 countries, our count is down. Our utilities went up. Advertising is supposed to generate more visitors, but I'm realizing more and more, that the ad agencies are the ones that get the money. Take a look at a travel guide and compare the quantity of photos of restaurant dishes, brewery drinks, and scenery versus the number of historic and cultural opportunities you see.



We are so thankful

The **Carlin family** came out this morning and did some weed eating. Last month, the Lake County Sheriff's Office provided us with a couple days of community workers, but there is still a bounteous crop of weeds due to the extremely wet spring. Anyone with a little time and some garden gloves would be most welcome!



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

Good crowd for Memorial Day Parade; MOAM's military vehicles fouled by modern fuels



We prepared six vehicles for the Polson Memorial Day Parade. One broke down with fuel problems on the way in, and another had to be towed home due to a failed fuel pump. Both problems are the direct result of poor quality fuel with ethanol which rots lines and pump diaphragms, even though we buy the higher priced non-ethanol premium and use additives. Fortunately some military vehicle parts are still being rebuilt, but last weekend cost us about \$300 in repairs and no help with the cost of gas either. Since someone asked us about Town Pump by name helping us with fuel, I will tell you that in 32 years of running military vehicles for the benefit of public display, Town Pump has only given us \$5 of gas, although they occasionally run a newspaper spread on how much they help communities.

MOAM Gunsmith Shop needs funds to fulfill vision

To be perfectly honest, our proposed antique gunsmith shop fund raising has not done very well. Organizations that we thought would be a sure thing have ignored our request. Just today, receptionist Marge made follow-up calls to gun related businesses that we had sent requests. We used standard size large envelopes and first class stamps. Several said they did not receive a letter and some businesses had recently closed, but out of about 70 sent, we only got one back. It is so frustrating when you can't know for sure if the mail gets through. We simply

can't afford registered mail. We even have persons claiming they don't get their email sent newsletters. I guess I could blame it on the Russians and keep smiling. We will elevate our rear sight, keep our powder dry and keep our target in sight.

Positive thoughts go to these recent donors: **Big Sky Sporting Clays – Sharpshooter; Joe Hatfield**, a second-time Georgia visitor, **Ron Marquardt, and Murdochs – Marksman**. If you want to join the team, the categories are in our last newsletter, or just call.

Dixon auction high prices symptom of “auction fever”

It is always depressing to go to an estate auction of a friend. I had never seen auction fever as rampant as the recent one in Dixon. Letting common sense prevail, I missed out on certain items that would have been very useful in our collection.

In visiting with several buyers who were paying three to four time fair market value, we found that most had never even been in our museum.

I did buy a few items. *Curtis Form-A-Tractor poster pictured at right.*



We salute our Members and donors



Individual, \$25 – Ron Hoefke, Dave Marshall

Annual family, \$50 – Mike and Pat Hutchin, and gift for D&M Somers by Dick Matejovsky

Annual sustaining, \$100 – Donna Rolfson Trust

Friend of Museum passes

Condolences to the Bales family at the loss of Ken, age 98, and donor of many pieces of auto related memorabilia.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

I seem so far behind on unusual donations coming in, that I will list the most recent and make a point of working back in the next newsletter. **Joe Havlovick's daughter and daughter-in-law** brought in items that

were an important part of life in the depression era up into the 1950s: Garden and orchard related items including two stenciled cherry boxes we didn't have. We are so glad they checked with us before heading for the dump!

Jim Eggebrecht: Children's iron and two Erector Sets.



Inspiration for Museum; Hopes for its legacy

I was saddened by the closure and auctioning of the contents of the Roy Rogers Museum, located in Branson MO. The Rogers family apparently didn't have a large enough endowment to keep it open. What is doubly sad and even angers me, is if those same buyers had made comfortable donations to that museum instead of waiting to feather their own man caves, and paying up to a quarter of a million dollars for certain collectables, the museum could have been kept open for all to enjoy.

That issue is my weightiest concern. I didn't give the museum my name as some others around the nation have done, although I find no fault in them for doing it. I want no glory, nor take any salary. I have pledged my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor to this venture which for the most part, gives credit to God for inspiring men to form a more perfect union which when following the precepts of the Constitution have blessed the world. This mission, if you will, is not to be sold to benefit an individual or organization. The real value is being accomplished every day by teaching in an enjoyable and fun way the principles which have in the past made America the greatest nation on earth. There are very few organizations in our nation that do this today. As far as my own posterity, I would rather have these principles shown their posterity in the future than inherit cash or materialistic blessings.

I have had visitors with wanting in their eyes or drool on their chin offer me large sums for particular items in the museum stating that I could use the money for our endowment. At what stage then, will the museum start losing visitors if the collection was diminished? We are so diversified that we draw from around the world, but our most valuable items draw a significant number of groups or persons. I recently gave my best shot in applying to a

wealthy Montana foundation who could have fulfilled our needed endowment amount with the stroke of a pen. My request was denied with no hope for the future. So where do I turn then? In the social ladder, I am nothing. I get that age old feeling of depression when I read the papers about monies going to a multitude of causes, or hear people in a restaurant bragging about how much property they are

leaving their favorite nephew. Remember, I asked you to ride along and see things from my view including the rear view mirror. When certain great men in history, Generals Washington and Patton, Abe Lincoln and Winston Churchill, felt depressed with the weight of the world, they turned to the Lord in prayer. I do daily, but I am only one. When Abraham bargained with God to save Sodom and

Gomorrhah, it came down to if only ten righteous could be found He would save the city. Can I get ten friends praying? Not just in an occasional thought or in passing, but sincerely praying that the funding would be made available to our endowment fund to keep it going 'til the Lord comes. If that is all I accomplish with this issue, then it is worth it.

- Gil.





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LIVE HISTORY DAYS

July 15-16

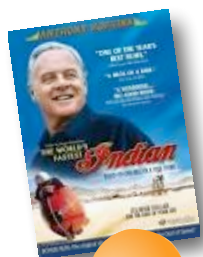
*Your once-a-year
chance to
see history come
alive!*



"Free Night at the Museum" - Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

**Classic family movies with background discussion
Displays and tours of select items!!**



- **June 22** – "The World's Fastest Indian". Plus a tour of the Indians in the MOAMs motorcycle collection.
- **July 27** – Feature length and touching movie, "The League of Grateful Sons" pays tribute to WWII veterans. Excellent original footage.
- **August 24** – Public welcome to enjoy Gil's birthday party, and an evening about the founding of the Miracle of America Museum and recollections of some of the miracles concerning its history.
- **September 28** – Back from the grave, meeting of Polson's namesake, David and daughter, Agnes Polson. Also, an open invitation for public to share their families history in the Mission Valley.



Treats and donations are always welcome!