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Miracle of America Museum

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Spring 2018

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Welcome Spring!—

Spring is certainly welcome after the cold, snowy, and long winter which reminded me of a couple from my childhood. David spent a lot of time plowing snow, and in between storms restored a couple of Cushman motor scooters and other odd projects. The trend now in some restorations is getting it complete and operating and not necessarily repainting.

Visitation was down because of the weather, and door receipts were pretty much used up by the extra propane for the main museum building.

As of the 14th of March, we have 27 states and four countries represented. Many repeat visitors bring their friends and relatives. There is also a lot of interest in our upcoming "Live History Days" on the 21st and 22nd of July. We thank you!



Donors continue supporting Gunsmith Shop

I spent a lot of time working in the antique gun shop. Insulating that building sure paid off as it didn't take much propane to bring it up to a comfortable working temperature.

Even though we were not granted the Friends of the NRA grant we had requested, Gunsmith Shop donors continue to help toward our goal of \$10,000 for the siding and security system.

Donors this last quarter in the \$100 Marksman category include: **Dave Bauer, Richard Beauchamp, Fast Strike Defense/Dave Duford, Jim Hayes, Linda Lodmell Kosvick, Lowell Mansfield, Wanda Kemp Maxson, Larry Rennfield, Bob, Skans and Valley Glass.**

In the \$1,000 expert category was **Matt Whetzel Concrete Construction.**

This help is greatly appreciated.

Some sad news was the unexpected passing of new friend **Dennis Elliot** from Evaro. He had recently donated the gun barrel rifling machine and other gunsmithing related items. We had looked forward to his demonstrating it this summer for our Live History Days. Our condolences go out to his family. We're also thankful to friend **Hayes Otoupalik** for introducing us and facilitating that.

Ways you can help MOAM

If you would like to help the museum, but lack the finances, here are a couple of ideas. Do you have old license plates lying around? Bring them in! We can either display license plates to make our collection more complete, or sell them as tourist souvenirs in the gift shop as a fund raiser.

We can also use animal horns and antlers either as decorators in certain parts of the museum, or I can trade them to a dealer that has meaningful antiques which tie in with various exhibits. Pictured is a very rare hardware store shotgun shot dispenser that he traded to me for a bunch of antlers. It was a nice fixture in our gun shop.

I also use scrap iron or odd stuff for sculptures. So please check with me before heading to the dump. We also recycle aluminum cans.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Chief picker, **Howard Hudson** — Cub and Girl Scout books, Glacier Park books, and misc;

Pat Fleming — 22 rifle and a SKS military rifle. It was missing the bayonet, but we just happened to have a correct one for it.



Lela Crum —

Depression era wedding dress that the bride made herself. By the way, I was looking at a 1958 Missoulian June Brides issue, and everyone was dressed modestly, not even a shoulder exposed, much less cleavage. Where have we gone?



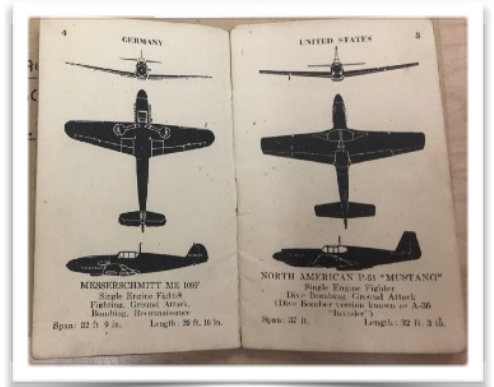
The Bible donation Leads us into a discussion of the next subject, but let me preface it with an exchange from a museum visitor many years ago. A man



spent several hours going through the museum and as he was about to leave he said, “You have a wonderful museum collection, but I can’t agree with your sentiments about America.” On inquiry, I learned he was an avowed communist and didn’t agree with our patriotic and pro American statements and the free enterprise concept we teach. So, even though he disagreed with our philosophy, he still loved the museum. The reason I bring this story up at this point in the newsletter, is that I am aware of at least a couple of museum friends that are atheist and another that is agnostic. So even though we disagree on religious issues, I am grateful they are still my friends and supporters of the museum.

The long distance honor last quarter goes to donor **John Dekhane**, who sent us a WWII pocket aircraft recognition guide all the way from the country of Monaco. It was so important to identify planes correctly so you didn’t shoot your own down. It is scary how similar some of the enemy’s planes resembled ours.

Eddy Newman — Large vintage tool chest, cross cut saws, and a huge 1883 family Bible. Called the Parallel Bible, it has 2000 illustrations, some in color. Besides relating to the scriptures, it has pages of information and pictures including religious history of the world, the early reformers; animals spoken of; and anything and everything mentioned in the scriptures. This also contains the Apocrypha, personal info and artist rendition of the Apostles, etc.



Museum collection illustrates Christ’s sacrifice

Printing time of this newsletter is just a few days before Easter, a time when Christians observe the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the subsequent crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. Easter Morning, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus who made it possible that we will all be resurrected.

The Old Testament prophesied of what we refer to as the Atonement, and the New Testament records the actual events.

Aside from about 100 vintage Easter postcards, we have other vintage themed items, from bunnies to chicks to pictures of Lilies, and of course Easter eggs. While sectarian in nature, they symbolize to many Christians, a rebirth, a renewal of life if you will.



Learn Smithing skills – MOAM to host “Hammer-In”

An interesting gift which many people would not think of saving was a rubber stamp of Tom Needham’s father’s business. Using Tom’s donation, I had a sign made from the text of the rubber stamp. You can see the sign in the wheelwright corner of our blacksmith shop. It adds a historic touch.

Speaking of smithing, we are pleased that a few young people are interested in either dabbling in or picking up the trade. On Saturday the 7th of April, we will host a “Hammer In” which is a name for smiths or would-be smiths, or folks just interested in watching, getting together and making sparks fly from hot iron. If you’re interested in forging some hot iron, you should bring safety glasses, gloves, appropriate clothing and shoes between 9 am and 5 p.m. There is no charge for you or the smiths, although donations to cover cost of propane or coal is appreciated.

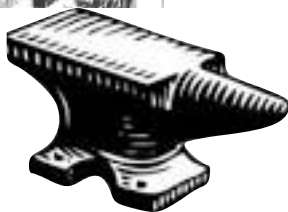
Spectators will pay the regular museum entrance fee. Bring your own iron, or we can sell you what you need. We know some Boy Scouts that are eager to make their own knives.



MOAM brings you this observation –



Drive across the country and you find that hardly anybody makes anything. I think of my own friends and neighbors. One of them sells insurance, one of them takes pictures for a living, one’s an actor, one’s a lawyer — none of them makes anything. I talk on television. I don’t make anything either. This may be the most fundamental change in the country. Years ago nearly everybody in the cities made something — harnesses, wagon wheels, hats, violins . . . ”



– from *On The Road with Charles Kuralt*,
published in 1985
by G.P. Putnam’s Sons



No wrapping, always fits! MOAM donations make thoughtful Mothers’ and Father’s Day gift

Here’s the perfect gift idea: A donation to the Miracle of America Museum that benefits its endeavor to preserve history for posterity. It’s a meaningful gift, and you can choose any amount.

It all goes into the MOAM Endowment, or your choice of projects, in the name of the gift recipient.



We salute our Members and donors



Friends of the museum memberships for this last quarter:
Family, \$50 donation:
Richard Christopher.
Annual sustaining, \$100 donation:
Dave and Sabrina Bauer,
Lowell and Jane Mansfield,
and
Tom Needham.



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"Free Night at the Museum" – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

So many visitors have wanted stories about our artifacts that for the next three months, we will host guided walking tours of the outdoor buildings and exhibits.

- **April 26** – East yard tour.
- **May 24** – Central Village portion.
- **June 28** – West yard tour.

There are so many interesting stories accompanying the buildings and artifacts, that they should be delightful evenings. If anything here has been a part of your or your ancestors' life, please let me know and we will include you in the program.

Treats and donations are always welcome!

Save the date!
Live History days,
July 21-22, 2018