



# Miracle of America Museum

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

Winter 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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and Nola Dupuis-Catlett

## MOAM hosts visitors from all 50 states

Time to get with the winter newsletter, and that early cold snap a couple of weeks ago froze some of my brain cells. Cold weather also dampens visitation and while we had gracious visitors from 42 different countries and eight Canadian provinces, March and April weather depleted attendance.

We finally got our 50<sup>th</sup> state in July a month later than usual, and attendance is pretty much on a par with last year. More word of mouth and repeat visitors proves we are doing it right.

## Community mourns loss of USMC veteran and Tribal spiritual leader



A significant loss to the community was that of Francis Stanger, a Marine Corps veteran who served in both WWII and Korea.

He was a Tribal spiritual leader and professional dancer. When his eagle head dancing stick and wing fan was in danger of losing feathers, rather than chance the danger of stepping on a sacred feather, he donated them to us where they will keep his memory alive.

Francis was a 50 year friend and I will miss having him march in the parades ahead of our military vehicles. Last summer when he tired of walking the entire parade route, we gave him a lift in our WWII Dodge 6 X 6.

## Chatter from the Chairman – MOAM Board Chairman David Bauer

What would it mean to you if you could live a fantasy, something dreams are made of?

For me, those dreams have become reality! From Mrs. Millers first grade class in 1968 here in Polson, through student teaching for Frank Noles at Polson High School, I've always been intrigued with mechanics, restoration and imagination...

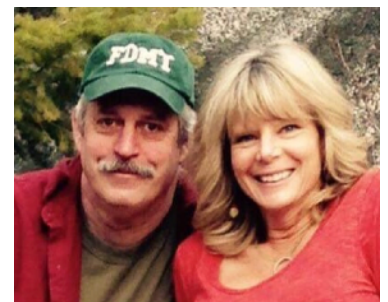
I was told from a young age, "if you don't enjoy what you're doing, you'll never excel." I've been truly blessed in life, in that regard. I spent 40 years restoring classic cars and building and racing Hotrods. I spent the last 20 years designing and building wild land fire engines for the Great State of Montana.

Now I'm beginning the next chapter in my storied life, by the way I started over 20 years ago when I first met Gil Mangels and began volunteer work for the Museum. Together we share a dream for the future of the museum and the amazing work Gil started over 35 years ago.

As I fall in behind Gil, I realize the tremendous responsibility ahead. I need only look back on the years we've shared together, becoming friends and the passion we share to preserve his work that gives me the assurance I will excel at continuing the legacy he created. I look forward to sharing our future ambitions for MOAM with you. Be a part of the Miracle of America Dream! What are the next steps on your end?

From Montana's best keep secret and the Mother of all museums, I sincerely thank you for your time, now and in the future.

**David Bauer, Chairman, MOAM Board of Directors** [dbauer15slm@gmail.com](mailto:dbauer15slm@gmail.com)



David and Sabrina Bauer

# Improvements continue every day at MOAM

Many of this year's improvements were described in the Autumn newsletter, but we keep restoring more items or improving displays and organizing the grounds.

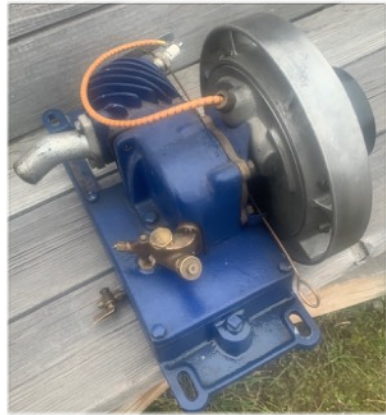
Many folks enjoy seeing our antique engines, and like watching them operate. From our small Maytag washing machine engine, to our large oilfield pumping engine with heavy flywheels measuring six feet in diameter. Pictured here are an early rope-start Maytag washing machine engine and a 2 HP International walking beam engine which would have run a pump jack.

We sorted out many duplicate and lesser quality examples and disposed of them to make room for the better and more

interesting ones.

These mostly date from about 1915 to 1930 and were used for running feed grinders, pumps, saw rigs, milking machines, and about anything that you could power with a spinning pulley transferring power through a flat belt, or in some cases a reciprocating motion like our can crusher.

Some of these could be rather cantankerous when it came to starting up, and I'm sure more than one homemaker trying to get her Maytag going, thought about regressing to the old washboard.



## Cash Coincidence

An interesting historic donation was two 5 Pesos bills about the size of a dollar bill. I believe they were post WWII Japanese occupation money, but the unique find by our chief picker, **Howard Hudson**, was that although he got each of them from different dealers, different days and locations, the two bills had consecutive serial numbers.



## MOAM restores Big Mountain Limo

Between 1949 and 1953, if you arrived at Whitefish on the train and planned on skiing Big Mountain, you would have most likely been shuttled by our '49 Chevy stretch limo. We have gathered up most of the parts for further restoration. Note ladder to ski and luggage storage, *right*.



## Annual memberships

Single \$50  
Family \$100  
Corporate \$200  
Life \$1,000

## Receptionist Perspective – Volunteer Marj Dickson

For many, sitting at the front desk all day might be boring. Not for me – I thoroughly enjoy my job! Besides the fact that Gil always has numerous projects going on, I truly enjoy greeting and meeting our guests. I never imagined the number and variety of different people that pass through our valley. I am truly amazed!

I greet them by saying, “Hi! Are we ready for an adventure?” Then I explain the layout of the museum, impressing on them the true size and variety. Happily many of these people become repeat visitors who bring friends and relatives who also tell others.

*Won't you help spread the word?*



## ***Not your Typical War Bond Poster—***

During WWII most industries switched their manufacturing to essential military goods to help win the war for freedom. In this ad from *Life* magazine, Santa explains to a tearful boy that his bicycle will have to wait until after victory so the company can again manufacture bicycles. Instead his father used his wages to buy him a Liberty savings bond. It's a touching explanation of the importance of buying War Bonds.

Here is the message printed on it:

## **I'm Sorry Son**

... This year I couldn't give you that ROADMASTER Bicycle you had your heart set on. You see son, it's like this: The people who make ROADMASTERS are now making war materials for your big brother and the millions of other American soldiers fighting for victory. That's why they can't make bicycles. This Christmas your dad bought you a Victory bond and that's the best kind of Christmas present. I know you understand and I hope that by next Christmas or the one following, victory will be won and then you'll get your bicycle."



**THE CLEVELAND WELDING CO.**  
West 117th St. at Berea Road • Cleveland, Ohio

## ***Funding ensures future of the museum – Every dollar counts toward MOAM Endowment***

As you know, funding is always an issue with all non-profit organizations. I remind you that neither I nor any board members receive any remuneration. Compare that with many large foundations or agencies where their CEOs get close to a million dollars (or more) in annual salary.

Wealthy benefactors seem to give to those that are already well heeled. I suppose some donate out of habit, or are influenced by the fancy invitations or banquets honoring them, and the ego-boost that comes from high profile, star-studded gala fundraisers.

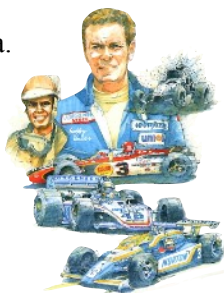
### **Youth value MOAM experience**

Children or universities seem to be buzz causes that open up the checkbooks, even though children have told us they like the Miracle of America Museum better than community clubs (that are well funded). Many students and graduates have told us they learned more about America here at the museum in a few hours than in several years of schooling.

### **Endowment ensures future of MOAM**

We need about \$2.5 million to satisfy our endowment fund which is invested in the Montana Community Foundation in Helena. The interest from this fund will hire the staff needed to keep the museum operating to benefit future generations.

Donors range from the famous in the case of Bobby and Lisa Unser who have twice been museum visitors, to a seven



year-old boy who after his dad had paid admission, wanted to give me a wrinkled up dollar bill. His father told him to put it in his pocket, but when dad went to the rest room, the boy insisted I take it to help the museum. Not wanting to hurt his feelings, I told him that he was our youngest donor. Reminds me of the "Widow's Mite" in the Bible.



### **Your donation is tax deductible**

Many donors just want to help and don't seek publicity. We just received a \$500 check from Chevron Matching Employee Funds, thanks to Dave Sergent. Perhaps your employer or company would do likewise. In making a cash donation to benefit yourself with a tax break, our Non-Profit 501(c) (3) tax ID number is 81-0437386.

### **Online Donation Made Simple**

We encourage you to always shop at home, but if you do use Amazon, please consider this simple way to benefit us through Amazon Smile. By adding "Miracle of America Museum" or "Miracle of America Story, Inc." as your selected charity. Amazon Smile will donate a percentage of all purchases without costing you a cent more. You get the same product and service, and the Museum gets a donation.

If you are on Facebook, and have a birthday or some special event happening, you may also use their Go Fund Me program to benefit Miracle of America Museum.

***We appreciate your help!***



## MOAM displays America's goodness

It seems that younger generations are not learning our nation's history in our schools or through much of the media.

A local father brought in his young son who had some serious questions about the brutalities shown in some of our war posters, and the father asked kindly if I could explain them. We had a meaningful discussion that ended by my explaining that once America had defeated the tyrant rulers, (sometimes I need to explain using different terms like bully, evil

ruler, enemy, etc. according to age) that America had forgiven them and helped rebuild their countries. I feel that is an often overlooked fact to remind us, or teach those who have never heard it, considering the recent anti-American sentiments that have raised their ugly head.

We also need to be reminded of the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

*All of us at Miracle of America Museum wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and happy, healthful New Year!*



*Stumped for the perfect gift idea?*

*May we suggest . . .*

**MOAM donations or memberships make thoughtful Christmas gifts!**

Help MOAM preserve history for posterity.

You can choose any amount.

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

Or check out our Gift shop — Many Montana-made items.



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



*May we always reflect on the reason for the season - the gift of the Christ child.*

*Merry Christmas to you!*



**Save the date!**  
**Live History days, July 18th and 19th, 2020**

36094 Memory Lane. • Polson, MT 59860.

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