



# Miracle of America Museum

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

Autumn 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860 406-883-6804 [www.miracleofamericamuseum.org](http://www.miracleofamericamuseum.org) • [info@miracleofamericamuseum.org](mailto:info@miracleofamericamuseum.org)

## Executive Board of Directors

Gil Mangels, Chief Executive Officer  
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Cathleen Wilde, Art Mangels,  
Art Mangels,  
Sam Allred, Carol Edger,  
Nola Dupuis-Catlett, and Julie Weber

## What a summer! Live History Days pleases

Wow, what a summer, if you could see it through all the smoke from western forest fires – a bad one within 10 miles.

Live History Days was a success, and two visitors flew all the way special from Boston to experience it. He commented that everybody was smiling, and that they want to come back next year. We appreciate flint knapper **Don Safford**, who donated six of the large obsidian spear points he had made here.

At least two new bus tours found us this year and said they would be back.

International visitors must have found better airline connections than going in to Calgary, because even with the Canadian border being closed, visitors arrived from 34 countries. Rhode Island was again our last hangout, but we finally hosted our 50<sup>th</sup> state in August.



## New Receptionist, Pam Forman

will be working a five day week. Come in and meet her!

We could still use other volunteers occasionally if you are getting bored being retired.

I had another birthday recently and Helen is only four years behind me. We are seriously needing to hire a manager. I would continue to serve as CEO and would work on items and exhibits until the end, but we need to take some of the stress off us.

## Paul Bunyan progress

David has been making good headway on repairing decking and railing on the Paul Bunyan logging tow boat.

**Ace Hardware** of Polson helped by donating several boxes of heavy duty screws.



## MOAM Publicity appreciated!

Dan Beck of FM K-Love radio did a half-hour interview of me telling about the museum. He was a pleasant interviewer to work with. Jeff at KERR, and John and Robin at KGEZ radio continue to do a super job via the radio, interviewing me for museum special occasions.

A superb writer and Communications Director, Eric Heidle for the Montana State of the Arts newspaper did an excellent two-page article with pictures of our Shorty Shope art and highway map collection. I may still have a few spare copies of the newspaper if you're out this way.

## Print or email Newsletters?

We are facing a dilemma and could use some answers. Mailing our newsletters costs almost a dollar each with the cost of forever stamps going up to 58¢. (Ever wonder if the "forever" part means they will forever be raising in price?)

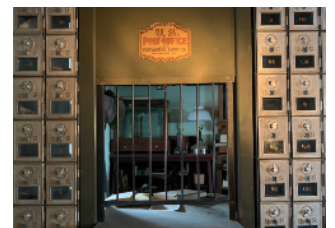
Some are returned due to address change. On the other hand, by emailing them, I'm sure some end up in spam or are quickly read over breakfast and then deleted. I know of some readers who have saved every issue and made a scrapbook out of them and others share them. So what

is the answer? We want to use our budget wisely.

Some folks have sent us a roll of stamps or donations to help with postage. Bulk mailing was more of a hassle than it was worth.

By sending newsletters out, we hope they act as a reminder of our financial needs.

*Your ideas are welcome.*



## Special Museum donations of note

Proverbs 22:6 King James Bible, might apply here. Read for yourself the nice letter we got along with a generous check from Mr. and Mrs. Dose of Kalispell.

To Whom it Concerns:

We wanted our children to participate in our giving this year and we let them choose a non-profit. My son Emmitt is a history buff and so enjoyed your museum this summer, he wanted his donation to go to the museum!

We are so grateful for the experiences you brought our children. Not only was the museum a great history lesson, you allowed the children to experience history through touch and play. We hope for many years of enjoyment for everyone!

Angela and Russell Dose

Steve Noe donated funds as a memorial to his grandfather, Clyde Lockwood, whose father-in-law bought new from the Ford Agency in Ronan, the 1937 Ford four-door sedan we have on display. The donation will aid in upkeep on the car.

We also got a nice check from **Wayne Jensen** as a memorial for the late Gail Lewis. It will help provide further improvements on our 1939 Standard service station that Gail's father had built at Rollins, and Gail later donated.

Funds donated to the Museum are more than just financial help for a project. To me, it is a vote of confidence and I feel honored. Sometimes when a check comes in, we don't know if it is an outright donation, or as a museum friend.

Another kindly donation came in from **Ralph Westerman** of Washington earlier in the year in the form of a \$200 sponsorship donation to pay for someone who might be destitute, but really wants to see the museum. We have used it a few times and try and get the family to write a thank you to Ralph that we can send on with our next mailing.



## Sales of Gil's art benefit MOAM

Stop in at the Sandpiper Art Gallery on Main Street and see some of Gil's new whimsical metal sculptures. The sale of these original works of art helps the museum.

"I sent a flying pig all the way to its new owner in New York this summer," Gil said, adding that a few other pieces of art were purchased also. On display now is a bird bath and another flying pig. The useful bird bath sports two sculptured ducks, two fish, and a dragonfly. You really need to see them for yourself to appreciate the imagination and joyful expression. *All proceeds go to the museum.*



## We salute our Members and Donors

Included this last quarter in the donation category are **Whitefish Credit Union, Eric and Carolyn Hall, Ann Ross, Larry and Dorothy Ashcraft, Tom Logan, Pat Fleming, Dick Geiger, and Roger Stenquist** and other **anonymous donors** who leave money in the tip jars or cans.

Several businesses budget a certain percentage to help non-profits and usually employees vote on who they feel deserves a turn for a given year. We were blessed that **Kathy Crockett of Clearwater Montana Properties, Inc.** nominated us this year and the company gifted us with a check for \$1,500. This was applied to our Paul Bunyan preservation project. Kids and adults ask us when they will be able to board it. Now that it's under cover, it could happen by this winter!



**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.**

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



# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

One never knows what may show up, and it makes one realize that you've never seen it all. During WWII with a shortage of brass, an official military bugle was made out of plastic. Donor **Bill Tidwell** even played a few notes on it for us!



**Bonnie Triepke** brought in a kerosene lamp with chimney and a neat speckle ware pitcher.



**Chuck Tremblay** learned of our loss of harness hames in our barn fire, and sent over a set used by his grandfather.

A memorial donation to **David Ferguson** included several interesting items in the music, over 200 Edison cylinder records, and clock category. The fancy wall clock will usually run for eight days on a wind up. The ladies kid gloves came with a fancy box, complete fitting and care instructions, and an envelope of fitting powder. You'd think that with a collection of



close to 800 cameras that we might have seen them all, but then this Eastman Kodak vest pocket series III Vanity camera shows up with its case, instruction booklet and original box.

Former Helena Vo-Tech machinist classmate, **Roger Stenquist** visited and donated five pieces of WWII trench art and a deactivated Japanese hand grenade.

Most everyone has heard of the



Johnson Sea Horse boat motors, but I never knew they made a snowmobile called a Skee Horse. We now have a beautiful example complete with manual and original sales literature thanks to the **O'Leary's** of Lincoln.

Undoubtedly the most interesting of



the several pieces of print that came in this last quarter was **Alice Stilwell's** donation of six full size original professionally laminated pages dating from 1800 to 1865 with very rare coverage of news of the day plus some pictorial advertising. We'll have to make a special sort of rack with these sandwiched between plexiglass so they can be turned like pages in a book to see both sides of the page.

Baby buggy or doll buggy? What determines which is which? Is it the size of the baby or doll or the size of the buggy? If truth were out, I suppose their uses have been traded off over the years. In this case, the larger circa 1940s was donated by the **Moshers** of

Bigfork, and the wicker circa 1920s with doll by **Cheryl Brooks** of Polson who also brought in a unique radio and a traveling electric iron.

A collection of WWII manuals and



sampling of items built in the ordinance shop at the Armed Forces School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, donated by **Eric Johnson**. Of particular value from the collection was a manual specific to our rare 1942 XA shaft drive Harley Davidson motorcycle of which only 1,000 were built.

Just in from **Jennie Fulton** is a nice parlor stove, and floor protector that was her grandparents. We'll find room in the hardware store as they would have carried these in the good old days.





## Grain reaper finished, and ready to work!

This horse drawn grain Reaper was resurrected from the ashes and actually looks better after restoration.



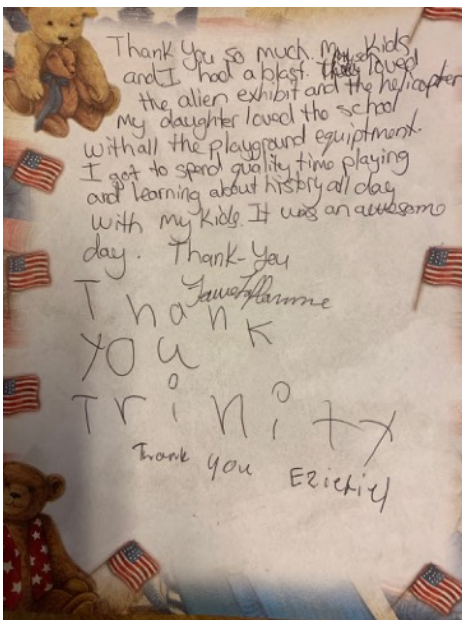
Thanks to **Gene DeCarlo** for buying the wood and spending several days building the four large rakes and even stenciling them as original. It would be nice to plan into next year's harvest season and see if a nearby grain farmer would allow us to cut 50 feet or so of grain to demonstrate how it worked. The cut grain could be saved and run through the combine later. We can dream, can't we?

## MOAM YouTube videos are fun for the whole family

Be sure and see our YouTube channel which contains over 50 short videos, most from two to seven minutes long. They are excellent for children and students too.

They are conveniently organized into three to eight videos per playlist:

- ★ America: the Miracle
- ★ America: Feelin' good
- ★ America: havin' fun yet?
- ★ Montana: Think Snow
- ★ Iron Steeds and Leather Britches
- ★ Montana History
- ★ Potpourri of an American Museum



## We are a favorite of the area preschools –

Firm Foundations, Fun and Fancy Free, and Head over Heels, among them. Here is just one note of thanks for a recent field trip through some of the Museum.

## MOAM seeks binder for parts

We are looking for a parts grain binder that may be still sitting in a fence corner somewhere, so we can begin restoring ours, but it must be John Deere and NOT McCormick Deering which was way more common.

The binder got its name because it had an amazing twine knoter, which mechanically bound the grain into bundle size and tied it.

Basically we need the wooden rollers which may be suitable even being weathered for years. The canvas for it would have probably been stored in a barn or granary to keep it from rotting. A few mouse holes wouldn't hurt. A pleasant surprise for my birthday this year was the arrival and several day visit from Portland of my grandson Ned Wilde and great grandson Zachary.

## Great grandson restores Freedom Train

A pleasant surprise for my birthday this year was the arrival and several day visit of my grandson Ned Wilde and great grandson Zachary from Portland.

Zack is a real railroad expert and wanted to paint a rusty relic weighing over 100 lbs that I had bought from a Missoula scrap yard many years ago. It turned out to be a very well built replica of the Freedom Train, which during our nation's Bicentennial actually went through Montana on its nationwide tour. It carried such important icons of American history as the Liberty Bell, and the Wright Brothers airplane, etc. With the mood our country is in today, we could use another Freedom Train traveling our nation trying to re-instill a belief in America.

I thought Zack caught some of the patriotic spirit as he painted our model which sits proudly on the porch of the railway station with its new paint job.



## 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 books, collectibles and more.

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.



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