



Miracle of America Museum

SUMMER 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Motorcoach resort/KOA include MOAM –

Boosting tourism

We wish to thank Paul and Carlisa London of the Polson Motorcoach Resort and KOA for donating a \$95 spot for our museum in their handouts to guests. If you are in the business of serving our many tourists, we ask you to inform your guests of Miracle of America and other area museums if you aren't already.

If visitors take time to tour our many places of interest, they are more likely to enjoy longer stays.

Donations continue

A Miracle of America Museum trademark that visitors like is the wide and diverse assortment of items. It stimulates donors to add to our collection. They often surprise even me with the varied and often unusual collectables they bring in and we appreciate it.

John Campbell – 23" long Marx toy car hauler. While the towing tractor/truck looks different, the auto transport is very similar to our real one;

Ken and Judy Coman – several pieces of taxidermy including a prime coyote pelt, mule deer head mount, rainbow and Mackinaw lake trout.

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Mounted rainbow and lake trout – just some of the beautiful taxidermy donated by Ken and Judy Coman.

Executive Board of Directors

- Gil Mangels, President
- Cathleen Wilde, VP; Ned Wilde, Treas.
- Nancy Pray, Secretary
- Gracia Normandeau Jones
- Kendall Dupuis Mike Maddy
- Stan Cohen Art Mangels Annette Schiele
- Advisory Director** • Jim Pomajevich

Museum mourns these losses

It hardly seems June with the long cold spring we've had. I'm thankful for the rain in this part of the world, though, as the earth was pretty parched.

Tragedy again struck the ranks of longtime museum friends this last quarter as we lost Ruth Mauth Raihl. One of the pictures on her memorial program shows her wearing the red dress at an antique auto meet with their 1929 Oakland. Both the dress and auto are on display here.

A good friend and museum picker, Don Smart, was crushed and died while working underneath his truck. He loved history and his hearty laugh will be sorely missed.



MOAM entry of six military vehicles in Polson's 2013 Memorial Day parade. Hillary Lamphere, age 9, is the little soldier in the helmet.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS *continued*

Neil Degolier — 1837 Liberty Head one-cent coin which is the same size as a modern dollar coin.

The largest donation was by **Nicole Hathaway Slattery** in memory of her late father **Bill Hathaway**. It was his beautifully restored and original 1949 F1 Ford half-ton pickup. I was happy to honor her request to give her one more ride in it as we drove it out to the museum. The very next day, when I asked a teenage girl from out of state what her favorite thing in the whole museum was, she immediately replied, “the red Ford pickup, because my father and I are restoring one, and it is neat to see what ours will look like when it is finished.”



This is what a 1949 F1 Ford pickup is supposed to look like! Gil accepts the key from Nicole Hathaway Slattery.

We salute our Members and Cash donors

Life Members:

George and Brenda Brimhall

Family memberships:

Paul Fugleberg

Mike Noble

Gordon and Donna Terry



*Newsletter layout courtesy of
Carmine Mowbray of*

CLARITY
Communications
Polson, Montana

Gary and Shelley Hemb—Polson Creamery 10-gallon can, Winchester 30-40 cal. wooden cartridge box, B.B. Beal wooden cherry box, and miscellaneous. I have never heard the name “Beal.” Are there any old-timers or descendants that could enlighten us?

Gail Kimball Herried— 1954 vaporizer with meds from both Eddies and Hubbards pharmacies;

Museum Picker **Howard Hudson**— Montana title LP records in their jackets, Girl Scout items, toys, and misc. useful stuff;

Lowell and Wilma Maxwell—large framed tinted photo of Flathead Lake in the Dream Island vicinity, and antique whalebone doll w/ sealskin clothing;

Bert and Grace Poloson— antique oil lanterns, tools, and fishing/marine items.



Antique whalebone doll – a mere 5 inches long.

Old “staff” gets new faces!

Gwen Bones and Donna Rolfson gave a much-needed “facial” and fresh makeup to a couple of our permanent museum “staff.”

Our very own soda jerk and Annie who is constantly getting her hair permed by the electronic beauty torture device, were looking a bit pale. Not very many people recognize Annie even when I tell them that they probably gave her a lip-lock if they ever took a CPR or life-saving class. Yes, it is a Resusci-Annie used to practice forced breathing and chest compressions in a first-aid class.

And speaking of makeovers . . .

meet “Bob” the octopus, Gil’s latest whimsical creation from his sculpture works using discarded materials.



MOAM adds cycle, sends story

The most recent restoration project of the more than 70 vintage motorcycles in the museum is a tribute to Jimmy and Rob Slack of Great Falls.

The bike is a 1934 VLD (high compression 74”) Appropriately stripped down and rear wheel chained up for some serious hill climbing.

The Slacks were formidable opponents on any race track, including the various “hills” around the northwest and Canada as numerous trophies, race programs, and old newspaper photos and articles in our collection will attest. The upcoming issue of Northern Rockies Rider, published in Butte with wide circulation, will feature a lengthy history of the Slack family’s involvement with early Montana motorcycle racing.

Memberships and donations

Dane Anderson donated cash to bolster our museum improvement funds.

This money goes into a match fund necessary to qualify for a County/State CTEP (Community Transportation Enhancement Program) grant. We will use the grant to build a protective cover over the Paul Bunyan.

We still need to raise about \$7,500. For the match. When we received a check from Dane, he mentioned he had seen us on the internet on a site called “Woody Boater” on the April 24, 2013 entry. It was a beautiful article and promises to bring more visitors to Polson. More on the grant as matches come in. We’d sure like to get started on the cover by early Fall .



Membership

Membership to the Miracle of America Museum is tax-deductible and allows you free admission, newsletters and 10% discount in our gift shop.

We really appreciate our supporters who remember to send donations.

A star beside your name on the address label means this may be the last newsletter you receive unless we hear from you. If you wish to remain on our mailing list, please let us know.

Family membership: \$25 to \$99

Annual Sustaining: \$100 to \$199

Corporate Sustaining: \$200 to \$999

Lifetime: \$1000 or above

In spite of the difficult economy and partially because of it, our Endowment fund needs to be enlarged. Only the interest income is used each year and the banks are presently not paying much. The board is again asking that you please consider donating the museum 1% to 5% of your estate to the Miracle of America Museum endowment fund.

If enough folks choose this sort of gifting it would help insure continued preservation of our collections and displays for your posterity to enjoy. If you agree, please consider discussing this with your estate planner or lawyer.

Thank you very much for your support

Miracle of America Museum

36094 Memory Lane

Polson, MT 59860



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LIVE HISTORY DAYS – Saturday and Sunday July 20 and 21



Live History Days takes place both days – July 20 and 21 – Ice cream treats at the fountain; rides on two trains and two or three Army rigs, spinners and a wood carver; the popular “Country Combo” of fiddlers, pickers, singers and accordions will entertain Saturday afternoon for your listening and dancing pleasure. See the sawmill in action; the jet trainer cockpit will

be open for viewing and photo ops.

The steam train and a steam tractor will probably be fired up. Watch the tennis ball cannon, blacksmith shop, some of our whirling flywheel engines and historic movies in the

meeting room. We hope to have a reader in the one-room schoolhouse.

Join the fun! Sell your wares!

Be part of history!

We welcome new exhibitors and volunteers! Vendors must have a direct link to things historical i.e. soap making, broom making, pottery, beading, etc. Call to check. Demonstrators may sell their handmade wares.

One of our favorite demonstrations was a broom maker who was just passing through and visiting relatives. He almost sold out. Persons interested in driving or operating items in the museum collection should contact Gil well in advance, for orientation and familiarization. Call us at 883-6264.

