

Summer 2016

NON-PROFIT 501(C) (3) CORPORATION • 81-0437386



Miracle of America Museum

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Executive Board of Directors

Gil Mangels, President

Ned Wilde, Board Chair

Nancy Pray, secretary • Ryan Gage, Treasurer

Brandy Wallace • Cathleen Wilde • Kendall Dupuis

Mike Maddy • Kelly Bishop

Annette Schiele • Art Mangels

MOAM to exceed attendance goal

An early attendance goal was reached as we got our 50th state for the year on May 28. As I type this, we have also had visitors from 25 countries and five Canadian provinces.

Persons sending out information probably wonder how much of it is actually read. Did you see my big mistake in the last newsletter? Perhaps you were being kind and didn't want to point it out. I would rather be informed so I can correct a mistake. Or perhaps you just didn't notice. I mistakenly entered the date (30th) for our Fourth (23rd) Thursday "Free Night at the Museum" program. So, to rectify the situation, I will be showing the documentary **on both dates**. It is about early steamboating on Flathead Lake with a segment about the Paul Bunyan logging tow boat, as well as a short film about early day logging in the area. Hope to see you for one of the evenings. Treats are always welcome, and for this particular program, any cash donations will help in restoration work on the Paul Bunyan.

Laura Hauner greets MOAM visitors

Experience Works has placed Laura Hauner as a receptionist. She likes her work and it is nice to have someone to work Saturdays.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) has also been a blessing to us. Gene De Carlo, woodworker extraordinaire keeps busy doing special projects for us. The latest is a Superman change booth, a.k.a. known as a phone booth.

We do need the old style coin-op phone for this, if you happen to find one lying around.

Dorla Scott is still having fun working the desk over 6 hours a week. A new Lady, starting out at 3 ½ hrs. a week is Daphne Rudolph, who is gaining confidence while she adjusts to her cochlear implants. It is important to face her when speaking to her.

Experience history in person- Live History Days July 16-17

Exhibitors will be on site from 10 am to 4 pm and include wood carving, leatherworking, pine needle weaving and old time music. Visit the vintage medical building for your free blood pressure test! Ride on the trains and military vehicles, watch live sawmilling demonstrations, shingle sawing and blacksmithing. See our tennis ball cannon in action. Find out what flint napping is. There will be schoolhouse readings and activities, and of course food and ice cream treats served from the vintage soda fountain. Handmade useables will be sold in the general store, and more. Want to be an exhibitor for old-fashioned fun? Call Gil at 406-270-7895 or 883-6804.



This military vehicle was in Polson's Memorial Day Parade, and will be giving rides at the MOAM's live history Days.



Popular place for reunions— MOAM in the community

MOAM's community involvement includes the following: Three metal, mostly whimsical sculpture entries in the month long Sandpiper art show, (*pictured below*), five vehicles in the Polson Memorial Day parade, several school tours, and we loaned historical items to the productions of Polson High School and Port Polson players. Our facilities have recently hosted several family reunions as well. One visitor wrote the following: "This visit to your museum with so many things from the past gave us a warm feeling to see this. We'll come again."



Local publicity appreciated—

Montana author includes MOAM

Author, Russell Rowland presented an autographed book about his visitation of 56 Montana counties, in which three of the pages were about me and Miracle of America Museum. Lynette Hintze wrote a feature article about us in the Daily Interlake, TV station, ABC Fox ran a video about us, and KERR and KGEZ radio stations continue to give us air time to talk about our programs. Visitors also post on Facebook and other sites which all aid in getting the word out.

We salute our Members and donors

Membership donations typically are deposited in our museum endowment fund. Donors for last quarter include the following:

Individual: Tamara Fisher, Tom Needham;

Annual family: Joan McDermott, Ken and Terri Miller, and Helen Horner Ross gifted memberships to two of her children;

Annual sustaining: Chuck Tremblay, Donna Rolfson Trust-John Mercer- Trustee, and Irv and Mimi Milheim;

Lifetime: Theresa Walter, George and Brenda Brimhall.

Miscellaneous donations from **Mary Jo Pugh** and tip jar proceeds will go towards the restoration of the huge Cracker Jack poster shown in the spring newsletter. We still need to raise around \$3,000. to finish.



"New" signage graces MOAM

This new sign stands out even at highway speeds. The image isn't really new -- it dates from Montana's Centennial, 1989.

We mourn friends who've passed –

The Grim Reaper has taken a heavy toll on our museum friends this last quarter. **Dick Barron, Cole Boehler, Sadie Haack, Bill McDermott, Ray Sanders, and Bert Smith** come immediately to mind although I have a feeling I'm forgetting someone who has taken a role in the museum.

Dick was an early donor to the museum, including a circa 1928 FWD Glacier Park truck. Cole was a real asset to motorcycle riding and published biking periodicals and tour guide books. He published safe riding pointers and had ridden every inch of road that he wrote about.

I'd known Sadie since childhood as she worked for my family in planting, digging, and grading potatoes. She was a well known water witch, and thanks to her daughter, Susie, we are organizing a "Dowsing" display.

Bill was museum famous for giving rides to the kiddies on our park train, demonstrating the RR inspection car Velocipede, and the signs for the tunnel.

Ray had donated numerous aviation collectables.

Bert founded and owned Smith and Edwards Surplus, North Ogden, Utah, and donated many loads of useful and unique items over the many years we were friends. He was a staunch "Patriot" and defender of the Constitution in the tradition of the Founding Fathers.

Our condolences go out to their families.

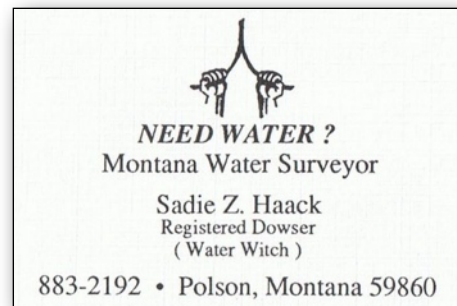


Bill McDermott was always happy when he was around trains. Here he is during Live History Days on our Velocipede.

Memorials for Sadie Haack came in from these family friends: Laura Burrowes, Jane E. Holland, Lillian Stephenson, and Frank and Lulu Stock.

Our thanks to these donors. The money will go toward material to develop the Dowsing display in the large white building which houses smaller tractors and winter tools and toys of yesteryear. It is fairly close to our two antique well drilling rigs, one of which is slated for restoration and has actually been moved into my machine and welding shop yard. The process of gathering the right dimension of wood has begun. As the old saying goes, "all it takes is time and money."

Any volunteers?



The late Sadie Haack's business card, advertising her water witching credentials.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS



Various donations add more variety to our museum which is already world famous for it's diversity.

Larry Janoff, Bigfork artist, donated several interesting prints and motorcycling memorabilia. He is famous for his aviation art. (*Images at left.*)

Maureen Theiler brought in a very nice quilt which we have displayed in the teacherage.

Nancy Glueckert donated her grandmothers 1930's shawl, (*at right.*) I remind you, that black and white newsletter pics do not do these items justice. Our website shows them in color.

Museum picker **Howard Hudson** found us a whip antenna for our 1957 Pontiac police car which is nearing completion, a unique Osterett mixer in its original box, and misc.

Tim Tronstad: a Pelton water wheel, (*below*) a handmade quilt, a captain's chair from Ft. Assiniboine, and misc.

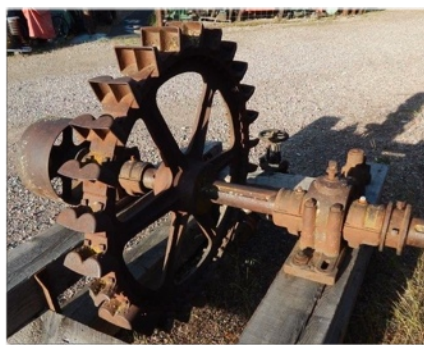
David Broeder donated a Conn Saxophone and Navy uniforms worn on the Massachusetts Battleship during WWII.

Ruby Smith donated a marriage vase from Sitka, Alaska, which is over 130 yrs. old, (*bottom, left*) and two tintype photos.

Steve Eschenbacher: 1990 "Griz" Club car golf cart signed by mascot "Monte."



Bill and Joan McDermott brought out this grouping for which I'm showing two pics so you can see both sides. (Lower right.) That is often a dilemma to know which side to display. If I have a duplicate I will show both sides. Now the real question. Where do I find a Bab-o doll to go with the cleanser can? I have searched Ebay to no avail.





36094 Memory Lane
Polson, MT 59860
www.miracleofamericamuseum.org

LIVE HISTORY DAYS

July 16 and 17, 2016
*Bigger and better
than ever!*

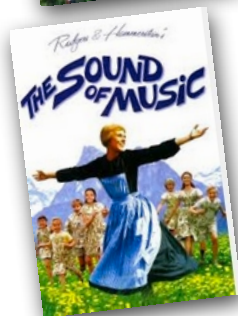


See Front page
for details!

"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 23** – *Back by request*, the Montana Centennial "Smoke on the Waters" documentary of steamboats on Flathead Lake, plus a segment covering the Paul Bunyan. Another short film covering early day logging in the area.
- **June 30** – Due to the announcement in the previous Newsletter, we are again showing "Smoke on the Waters" documentary of steamboats on Flathead Lake, plus a segment covering the Paul Bunyan. Hope to see you either evening!
- **July 28** – "Wizard of Oz"
- **August 25** – "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"
- **Sept. 22** – "Sound of Music"



Treats and donations are welcome for "Night at the Museum." Call Gil, 406-883-6264.