



Miracle of America Museum

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

Winter 2016



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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“Best Year Yet” for MOAM

We get rave reviews from all over the world and 2016 brought visitors from 51 countries, two territories, and eight Canadian Provinces, but this visitor quote of the quarter gets my vote:

“Even though I’m legally blind – I’m really having a blast!” – Credited to Ron of Whitefish.

In most ways, it has been the best year yet for the museum. The exception is the loss of several long time friends and previous donors including **Dean Greiner, Ray Hughes, Lester Johnson, and Raleigh McNeal.**

Many years ago, Dean donated his Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and other memorabilia related to flying his B-17 during WWII. *See photo, below.*

Ray was instrumental in our receiving donations from several of his neighbors. Lester would often bring in primitive agriculture items, but the most collectible was a WWII German officer’s Mauser pistol. My favorite items donated by Raleigh were his white “Johnson Flying Service” coveralls and the large non-typical elk rack hanging in our public meeting room. *See photo at left.* Our condolences go out to their families.

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Join Us for Our Christmas Program—

If you read this before Dec. 22, remember our special free Christmas program at the museum! Sing Christmas carols, hear a reading of the Christmas story and watch Mr. Krueger’s Christmas starring Jimmy Stewart.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



About now, I feel I need not only life support, but brain support as well. For the newsletter, I'm afraid I'll miss someone, or misspell a name. Things beyond my control bug me. Take mailing addresses for example. The post office now has a forwarding time limit of three months. That means that if someone has moved and not told me, I may get their newsletter back, whereas they got the previous quarter. A huge mistake I made in the last newsletter was misspelling **Reneé Loehr**. My apologies.

Horse-drawn items in restoration

Yard helper David Bosley has been busy restoring horse-drawn dump wagons and doing quite a nice job of it. We usually only replace damaged or missing parts and try and recycle used but reusable wood or iron to finish the task.

A recent donation of a garage and yard full of "stuff" helped in that regard. Among the items used in numerous restorations were old square-headed and carriage bolts, a 4' x 10' iron sheet and a 3" x 16" x 8' plank, that were donated by **Jeanne Rosenberry** of Woods Bay. **Dupuis Lumber** also donated several pieces of custom cut lumber to aid in these restoration projects.



We salute our Members and donors

Individual – Richard Anderson *Paid by PayPal*;
Annual family – Frank and Lulu Stock,
Marvin Carlyle/Patty Mikulecky and Jamie of
Missoula-based "Big Sky Breakout" bought a
membership for one of her employees;
Annual sustaining – Rick Cothorn, Bob and Sharon
Fulton, and Larry Berdan, who will petition the
company he works for to do an employer match under
their philanthropic program.



If I have forgotten anyone, it is unintentional. Perhaps it was in the last newsletter or got in too late for this one.

How old does something have to be to be displayed?

This is a question we occasionally get asked. Sometimes age is secondary to the uniqueness, use, quantity made, etc. Case in point is a 1997 Kawasaki KZ 1000 Police Special motorcycle adorned with all its police lights. A siren and radio antenna have yet to be reinstalled, but it was in such beautiful condition, that it didn't even need dusting. It was donated by ex-cop **Bob Simpach**.



Amazing, Wonderful, Fantastic . . . but it must endure –

To quote many visitors, "This amazing, wonderful, fantastic, awesome, incredible collection must be preserved for future generations." That brings us to the subject of our endowment fund. To repeat a portion of the previous newsletter, a generous donor has agreed to boost the Endowment by matching up to \$25,000 of funds from selling deaccessioned items. A recent sale allowed us to deposit \$8,000, which means we credited the Endowment \$16,000 with that transaction. We need to enlarge the fund another \$2,478,000 so the interest can fund full time managers to replace Helen and me who donate all of our time and work.

There are persons or foundations out there that could help us reach that goal if they only knew of our need. Some companies have philanthropic policies that match their employees' charitable donations. Our 501(c)3 tax ID. appears on the heading of our newsletters.

Please make checks to "MCF/Miracle of America Museum" and mail via registered mail or other safe transfer means to:

Montana Community Foundation
Attn: Daphne

Box 1145, Helena, MT 59624-1145.

We have also received donations of stocks from two companies, and the interest paid to the museum account has assisted us in hiring David, our yard man.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Well, to get right to the point, with donations this last quarter, let's start with the 215-piece military bayonet collection assembled by the late **Richard C. Bray** of Laurel. His donation also included some inert ordinance and 125 arrowheads. Richard wanted his collection to go to a museum that would appreciate and display it. To make sure these weapons found their target, his friend **Andy Burt**, also of Laurel, contacted us to make sure Richard's wish would be honored. **Willy and Susie Aders** of Billings were a great help by transporting the collection to us. As always, if you have access to the internet, the items pictured in this newsletter will be larger, clearer, and in color.



Chief picker **Howard Hudson** is always on the lookout for display items or things I might use in some of my sculptures. Recently he brought us a mirrored shelf which is earmarked for use in our "Roots" display. Included in that load were a gas iron, research books, and an unopened plastic model of a '57 Corvette.

Old friends, **Ed and Kathie Horstman** of Bigfork recently stopped by and invited us to visit and see his Stearman bi-plane he had recently restored. An amazing

engineer and craftsman, he probably spent his nap time as a baby engineering devices to escape from his crib. He even has his DNA on the moon as he made a part of the moon lander. His "Tri-Star Trimarans" sailboats have won trophies around the world. Anyhow, next to the beautiful Stearman was a 1937 Beechcraft Staggerwing. I couldn't get him to donate either one of them, but he did send us home with a 1931 airplane control quadrant, a vintage Kalispell Brewing Topper Beer bottle, and several collector boxes of vintage ammo.



Janet Morehead Gustuson brought in several record books and history of Treasure State Cherries and misc. Boy and Cub Scout items. **Mike Mauk** donated a pair of brass Pierce Arrow hood emblems.

LaWanda B. Hotz donated misc. Air Force uniforms, medical kits, and agriculture items. **Billy Chavez** donated a John Deere model 120 tractor with three attachments.

Andy Baxter hauled in a 1951 M38 military jeep. Although it had been civilianized in part, it amazingly had many of the military appendages that are usually taken off when they get in civilian hands.

Mike Shoquist donated 1960's uniforms and WW11 medals;

Kathy Neeley gave us a circa 1945 to 1950 ranch saddle made by Herb Wilmeth, Clovis, NM saddle maker.

Jerome Ranstrom delivered several boxes of old John Deere tractor and machinery repair and parts manuals dating from 1900 to 1950.

David and Linda Ensign of Bigfork spent several days sorting, cleaning, and tidying up displays in the Saddle Shop and the Sewing Shop, and found a source for reasonably priced mannequins. So far we've added seven to our permanent residence. Five of them actually "work" in our 1912 Bank building, so stop in and "make a deposit" soon.

SEE THE
MIRACLE OF
AMERICA MUSEUM
POLSON, MONTANA



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



*Have a
 blessed
 Christmas
 and Joyous
 New Year!*



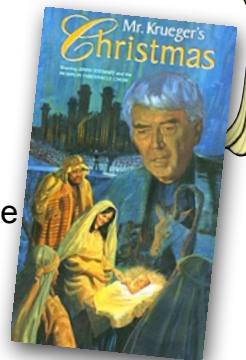
Live History Days – Mark Your Calendar for July 15-16, 2017!

“Free Night at the Museum” – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

**Classic family movies with background discussion
 Displays and tours of select items!!**

- **December . 22** – we will sing Christmas carols, have a reading of the Christmas story and show Mr. Krueger’s Christmas starring Jimmy Stewart.
- **January 26** – National Archives Traveling Exhibit of “The Bill of Rights and You” commemorating the 225th anniversary.
- **February 23** – Screening of “The Sands of Iwo Jima” starring John Wayne. This is a fitting movie to show as it was this day in 1945 that the U.S. Marines took Mt Suribachi on the Island of Iwo Jima.
- **March 23** – We’ll watch “Night At The Museum” starring Ben Stiller and Robin Williams.



Treats and donations are always welcome!