



# Miracle of America Museum

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

Winter 2017



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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*This newsletter may be viewed online. Please go to our website and click the Newsletter tab for clearer color photos: [Miracleofamericamuseum.org](http://Miracleofamericamuseum.org)*

## Year ends on positive note—

It seems odd to send you more Christmas greeting since I did that in the Autumn Newsletter, but that's just how it works out on the calendar. Our year end report which actually is a week or so before the years end is positive. We seem to have had more visitors, but haven't made the final count yet. Our chalkboard shows 53 countries, but England sometimes wants to be known as from the United Kingdom and some from Holland say they are from Netherlands. So we will again claim 51 countries.



## Antique Gunsmith Shop fund grows—

## MOAM gathers funds and vital donations from donors

Our tip jar, gift shop, and donations have helped build our Antique Gunsmith shop even though we still need to raise about \$12,000. for siding and a state of the art security system. We won't know if our grant request to the NRA is successful until March, but that will be only half of the needed funds to finish. We separated the giving categories by military firing range categories just for fun. Marksman, \$100; Sharpshooter, \$500; Expert,, \$1,000. If any brave souls want to be rated as a Sniper, it would cost a \$10,000 donation. (See photo at right, showing progress.)

Previous donors were listed in our Spring and Summer 2017 newsletter. Since then, Marksman includes: **Darold Schaffer, Gary and Frances Abbey, Polson Ace**, for donating paint; **Wiebe Painting**, and **Murdoch's of Kalispell** for security panels.

Sharpshooter: **Western Building Center-Polson** for materials, and **Hu Beaver Builders**.

Expert category as a memorial to **Bert Smith** from **Kathy**.



**Bert** was a staunch defender of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and great patriot. All will be listed in the Antique Gunsmith Shop.

## MOAM helps fulfill Mrs. Gibson's last wish

Last issue, I reported on my visit with Alta Gibson. She wasn't afraid of dying at age 96, and her biggest concern was about getting her scrapbook to someone who would appreciate it and share it.

Her caregiver reported that she was overjoyed at our visit and so happy that her photos would be shared. About two weeks later, I guess she thought her mission was accomplished and she slipped away.

Our Fourth Thursday "Free Night at the Museum", on December 28<sup>th</sup> we will pay tribute to her and show her photos following the enjoyable half-hour film "Mr. Krueger's Christmas". Please join us!

## Santa takes off over MOAM

Our new lighted Christmas sign shows Santa in an airplane pulling a Merry Christmas banner and is courtesy of **Ed and Kathie Horstman**. (Photo at right)

## MOAM Donation as Christmas gift.

A novel Christmas gift from Sandra Close to her sister Wanda Kemp Maxson was a \$100 contribution to the Museum to help preserve the memory of General James Dudley Kemp. He was a Ronan graduate and served an illustrious career, retiring as a Brigadier General. If you haven't yet seen his displays, it is worth visiting the museum just to see it.



## MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

As promised, I'm trying to do some catch up on donations. Not all go on immediate display. Some items need repairs, or we need to rearrange previous exhibits to work things in. Some things are so rare, that it is hard to make or find missing parts. Such was the case with an 1897 Edison projecting kinetoscope. I haven't had any success in finding parts for it, but what is there is so interesting, it is worth displaying as is. Donor **David Lockwood** also brought in a vintage candle slide projector;

**Phil G. Schlamp** donated his 1960 to 1980 Forest Service uniform;

**Doug Silverborg** gifted a 1950s Homelite 707G chainsaw;

**Kissy Holtz** – a beautiful red velvet dress;

**Gary Kludt** – large painting of the Monitor and Merrimac naval battle of 1863;

**Kay Wall** – Army tank-fired projectile and a riding lawn mower called a Yard Bug. While it isn't real old, it will be a fun and operable machine to embellish with some sculpture items.

Chief museum picker **Howard Hudson** surprises me sometimes with what he finds. Thanks to him, our Glacier National Park memorabilia collection keeps on growing.

**Dan and Susan Stocks** – historical books, handmade frigate and nautical themed clock.

Another historical landmark bit the dust as the Missoula Mercantile was razed. **Carolyn Chapel** sent us a unique souvenir in the form of a needle threader and scissor sharpener from the iconic enterprise.

Another museum picker, **Lulu Stock**



brings us in some lulu! How many fisherman out there do you suppose have ever heard of, much less *seen* a sealed can of monofilament fishing line? This unopened can with the attached key (like the key on a sardine can) even had a free fisherman's raincoat inside. Lulu also brought in a whole roll of NRA (National Recovery Act) stickers. **Lee Griswold** sent us a partially filled 25 cent Defense Stamp Album from WWII. When these were full, (\$18.75 value) you could trade it in for a Savings Bond, which after 10 yrs. would be worth \$25. Basically stamps and bonds were a loan to the government to keep our fighting men and women supplied with essential material to win the war.





# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS *continued*



**Jim Krause** donated a rare Ground Observer Corps aircraft identification model, complete with its U.S. Government envelope. *(Photo on previous page.)*

**Lee Hippensteel** donated several older Colorado Police patches for our law enforcement display.

**Steven C. Carlson** brought in a metal toy truck that, during the Great Depression, his grandfather, a machinist, had made as a Christmas gift for Steven's father. Steven says,

**“This truck reminds me of the hardship suffered by our ancestors only a couple of generations ago — and the hardship we may suffer if we ignore the lessons of our history.”**

The toy truck was used enough to run the original wheels off it so more modern replacements were used. If anyone has any old wooden, hard rubber or vintage metal wheels, please think of us. The truck is displayed in the Toy box, Santa's Workshop, Christmas building.

*No wrapping, always fits!*

## MOAM donations – the perfect gift

Is someone on your Christmas gift list hard to buy for? Here's the perfect gift idea: A donation to the Miracle of America Museum that benefits its endeavor to preserve history for posterity. It's a meaningful gift, and you can choose any amount.

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



## Very Merry Christmas to you!



As I write this, the snow is coming down, so it looks like it will be a white Christmas. Helen and I wish you a very Blessed Christmas at this special time of year that we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Some of you are lonely for a lost spouse or friend, some are physically, emotionally and spiritually hurting. In America and through out the world “Hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth”. That Babe in Bethlehem, grown to be our Savior will cause the wrong to fail and the right to prevail.

As you contemplate the true meaning of Christmas, may somewhere in your mind and soul hear the bells that signify that in His own due time He will bring “peace on earth good will to men.”

*Gil ready to ring the Museum's yard bell!*



## We salute our Members and donors

Dozens of requests fill our mailboxes for many worthy causes. Some CEOs do indeed take huge salaries right off the top with little money going to the intended cause. Bear in mind that my work/mission here is *all voluntary*. Unless otherwise instructed by you, your memberships and donations go into the museum endowment fund to preserve the museum so that your posterity may enjoy coming here.

We do have special projects that some donors want to assist financially, or in-kind.



Membership categories are **Individual \$25**, and this last quarter include **Dr. Ralph Campbell, Grace Larson**

**Family (immediate) \$50:**

**John Erkkila, Kim Detert, Eric and Carolyn Hall, Darold and Dore Schaffer, Helen McClellan, Ryan Sloan, Patricia Wooldridge, Diamond S RV Park**

**Annual Sustaining \$100**  
**Don Lodmell**

**Corporate Sustaining \$200:**  
**Access Montana (Ronan Telephone)**

A few \$1,000 donations have come in which qualifies for a **Lifetime** membership, but these were specified for the Antique Gunsmith Shop this time. If I have forgotten anyone, please check our previous newsletters on our website first and then let me know. Remember to err is human, and to forgive is divine.



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## “Free Night at the Museum” – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

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



•**Dec. 28** – After viewing “Mr. Krueger’s Christmas” half-hour film starring WWII veteran Jimmy Stewart, we will pay tribute to professional photographer Alta Gibson and show her collection of photos of Pearl Harbor damage.

•**Jan. 25** – Author Charles B. Lutz reads from his work of historical fiction, “Eyes in the Sky”, inspired by actual, incredibly memorable events. Mr. Lutz is a professional educator and ordained minister. He has taught courses in mathematics, science, history, and biblical studies. With the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Allied victory in World War I approaching, there’s no better time to read a high-flying, dramatic, inspirational story of real patriotism and virtue!

•**Feb. 22** – Heartwarming movie “Last Man Club”. A World War II Veteran escapes his nursing home on a cross-country road trip to find the last surviving members of his B-17 crew.

•**March 22** – “America” – imagines a world without America, with Dinesh D’Souza. Possible appearance at this Museum program of Academy Award-winning producer Gerald R. Molen.

Treats and donations are always welcome!

