



Miracle of America Museum

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Winter 2022

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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and Board Chair; Helen Mangels, Secretary;

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and Julie Weber

Pedal Car Memorializes Master Carver Chuck Kaparich

About 34 years ago, an antique store in Kalispell had a park train all set up to give rides. I figured it would be an asset to the museum attractions, but they would only sell it to me if I also bought a carousel minus the animals. I envisioned using pedal car bodies and miscellaneous things for the kids to ride in, so we made the deal. Unfortunately, I was the only one who thought it would be a good draw to Polson, and no support was pledged.

Along came a Missoula resident who had vision and a dream and also Missoula area support. Chuck Kaparich, the most multi-talented artist I have known, fulfilled his dream and gave Missoula a Carousel. In the process, he taught many folks how to carve, and you can witness that by visiting it.



Chuck also collected and restored antique pedal cars. His wife, Beth, just donated a 3-wheeled motorcycle to us. It started out as a pedal car, but many were converted for carnival rides and towed around a circular path.

Back in the day, car dealerships and repair shops used to use the full-size gas-powered 3-wheelers to deliver cars to customers. They'd hook one onto the rear bumper of the vehicle to be delivered, and ride the 3-wheeler "dispatch tow" back to the dealership.

This piece is a good junior companion to our 65 Harley 3-wheel motorcycle.

Chuck told his wife he didn't want to be memorialized, but he didn't tell me, so it will be displayed in his memory.



Writer's Prayer; Friends, Donors Pass

As I start writing this, winter has caught so many folks as well as me off guard. But who knows, maybe by the time it is ready to go to press it will be short-sleeve weather again.

I have used several books by the late Paul Fugleberg for area historical research lately and came upon an anonymous "Writer's Prayer" that I can surely use. Here are just a few lines from it:

"Lord, give me the ability to write wisely and well,
to write in a way that will enrich and enlighten
the hearts and minds of others.

Help me to continue writing
through those black moments of discouragement
when I feel that nothing I write is good or worthwhile
or will ever be read by anyone."

I hope, in spite of wars and rumors of wars, that you had a thankful and happy Thanksgiving. Our heart goes out to those who are dealing with loss of loved ones, or declining health that is so hard to deal with. We have lost some very dear friends who have also been major financial donors. Among those are **Brenda Brimhall, Dave Sergent, and Theresa Walter**. Rest assured that the next holiday we celebrate gives us hope and assurance that this life is not the end.



New Display in Time For Veterans Day

We received a nice grouping to honor Corporal Rangeler who was killed in WWI, in time for displaying for Veterans (Armistice) Day.

I held a little ceremony in our military section with several veterans in attendance. We gave free admission to veterans and their spouses that day.

Randy Neumann brought in a medal and picture of his grandfather, William, who was part of the Lost Battalion. I remember Bill as a very nice man and a Mt. View school bus driver as well as working at Polson Conoco service station across from where Beacon Tire now is.



Visitor Expresses Love for America

An interesting quote from the comment book came from a Vietnamese man who had visited before. He brought three of his Vietnamese friends to see us. His comment was, "this museum makes me happy about America."

Isn't it sad that for the most part it takes someone who lived under Tyranny in the past to appreciate America. I witness the same sentiments on Facebook posts.

Artist Greytak Sends Calendar

Just received in the mail, a 2023 calendar from my favorite artist, Don Greytak of Havre. You can see his gallery on the internet. Anyone growing up in rural Montana is sure to resonate with his realistic pencil sketches. So many of the scenes bring back memories and I find myself saying, "been there, done that."

We Appreciate Our Helpers/Volunteers!

Pam, our receptionist had to cut back on her hours a bit, but Marj Dickson who used to work here has volunteered to fill the gap.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Many folks like to see our flywheel engines (hit and miss, one lung-ers, etc.) running either by themselves or operating various machines. **Evan McKinney** started to restore a 1931 1 3/4 hp Hercules brand engine that had been his father's. Almost finished, he went on to other projects and donated it to us. Building or finding a gas tank and plumbing to the carburetor is about all we need to do, so we should be able to finish it this winter.



Andy Jeffries donated 40 postage stamps. Speaking of stamps, some of our newsletter recipients may get an accumulation of odd stamps to cover postage as we are trying to utilize some of the accumulations. Some of the stamps are pretty old, which explains the small value.

Remember the "Good Old Days" when we complained when stamps went up to five cents? The old motto that the mail must go through is being tested I suppose by all the junk mail and political flyers have watered down the importance. Then of course texting, emailing and other technologies have replaced it. Also, we have the old school postal employees retiring. Please bear in mind that there is a very short forwarding time if you change addresses. I just found out that some post offices will only deliver to a box number. So we got a half dozen returns last quarter. I still prefer the



hard copy, because sometimes email gets lost in spam or the receiver glances at it and doesn't share with family or thinks they will read it later and forgets.

Nate Nunnally donated a complete 1951 soil test kit so the farmer could determine how much and what kind of fertilizer to apply with his seeding operations. If I had a penny for every 80 lb sack of fertilizer I carried to our grain drill back in the day, I could probably fill up my gas tank today.



MOAM Looks to Build Endowment



We salute our members and Donors!

A corporate level donation came all the way from Connecticut courtesy of **Larry from Basement Systems, Inc.**

Mike Hutchin donated at the family level and **Robert and Margie Nickisch** are frequent donors at that level as well.

Le Roy and Naomi Barta, long time museum supporters, just had their investment broker send us a nice check.

Financially we are healthy and debt free, but we still need to enlarge the endowment fund so the investment returns will

hire staff and other needs above what normal operating costs are into the future.

Accumulated donations this quarter have allowed us to send another \$20,000 to the Montana Community Foundation into our Museum account.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS, continued

A nice 1977 Boy Scout Campaign hat was donated by **Logan Lloyd.**

Les Towner donated a couple of



nice gold nuggets that found a home in our gold scales in our wall display in our first room.

Alan Bouchard brought us 10 antique telephones, several used by line repairman.

Estate sales are a much overused term to catch more customers. Even if they were all valid we can't possibly

attend them all due to logistics or exorbitant prices. Thanks to our chief picker, **Howard Hudson**, we were contacted by the **Hockaday** family of



Lakeside, about some things that remained after their sale. This is one sale I would have liked to have known about ahead of time as they were early day and industrious pioneers. Nevertheless, we were

donated some nice items that others had overlooked or didn't want. The heaviest item was a three-point single bottom plow to go with the 1944 2N tractor we were previously donated. Only a specific audience would notice the unique design, but they would say, "Oh Wow!" The family were pioneer orchardists, so some items related to that are also on display.



Mark Your Calendar – January 14 Winter Fest!

Join us after the Holidays for our Second Annual WinterFest! We had so much fun last January, we're planning an even bigger and better celebration for 2023! We've brought some vintage snow machines out of static display to demonstrate and give rides.

Enjoy the Museum's YouTube Channel! We've added QR codes, and WiFi is available throughout the grounds to enhance your enjoyment of our displays. Learn "the rest of the story!"



We always encourage shop at home first, but if you turn to Amazon, it costs nothing more to use "Amazon Smile" and state the Miracle of America Museum as the non-profit recipient. Amazon shoppers have provided hundreds of dollars since we registered with Amazon.



Our Sincere Wishes For You this Special Season



Some folks are offended if you say “Merry Christmas” while others get offended if you say “Happy Holidays”. It seems that society has become pretty thin skinned these last couple of decades.

My take on it is, I hope everyone has a MERRY CHRISTMAS, and since Christmas is a holiday, I hope everyone has a HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Many of us, no matter the exact date, celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Others concentrate on Santa Claus. I don’t think Christians should be too rough on Santa. After all, he brings joy and rewards good behavior after holding children accountable.

And after all Santa did say as he left,
***“Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a good night!”***



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



Join Us January 14 for MOAM Winter Fest, Rain or Shine!



We hope we have adequate snow on January 14, 2023 for our 2nd annual “Winter Fest.” Last year was so much fun and well attended, several other folks want to join us.

The **Western Montana Vintage Snowmobile enthusiasts** will be on hand to give rides and show their machines.

We will have an unusual 1930 Model A Ford Coupe that was converted with a “Snowbird” attachment and used to deliver mail in the Birdseye area, northwest of Helena. I had purchased it over 30 years ago and it has been on static display in our winter building. This Fall with helper David Bosley doing most of the heavy work, we got it running

smoothly, but the bearings and pinion gear in the rear axle were totally shot. I tore apart two axles found in Whitefish to get the proper bearings, and a local collector found a good ring and pinion. Back then people used 600W gear oil that is a cross between molasses and tar. (It doesn’t launder out of work clothes either!)

The Model A, as well as many other of our collector snow machines will be giving rides or demonstrated. We use this as our winter fund raiser, so regular admission will apply. We will also have concessions and hot chocolate and apple cider for sale.



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