



Miracle of America Museum

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Spring 2023

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Gil Mangels, Chief Executive Officer
and Board Chair; Helen Mangels, Secretary;

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and Julie Weber

Winter has its Rewards – to Visitors

I usually start on our newsletter about a month ahead while things are still fresh in my mind or in my pile of notes and donor receipts. As I looked back at the last newsletter I talked about an early cold spell catching all of us off guard. At the risk of sounding redundant, the temp outside is now 2° without wind chill figured in.

But, all worked out well today. Read on.

MOAM Winter Fest a Hit

Speaking of winter, we had a successful Winter Fest with about 150 visitors including 30 children who never seem to tire of getting rides on anything moving. Thanks to the Western Montana Snowmobile Enthusiasts.

Jake and Sam Allred, Elijah Camel, Tony Marshall, and David Bosley, were our main volunteers. Brandy Wallace provided her delicious chili, Allreds provided hot cider and Nyla Rubia helped serve when she wasn't helping boost the festive spirit by playing the piano.

Dick Schultz – A Collector's Collector

The late Dick Schultz's collecting rivaled my collecting, but of a different sort. Dick, long time Polson businessman never came home from a govt. surplus auction empty handed. Most of his collecting had to do with his business, Schulz Refrigeration.

The picture below hung in Dick's office. It was smoke damaged from an arson fire a few years ago, but still readable: "You movin' or going to the dump?" Fortunately for the Museum, his nephew, **Mike Brooks**, executor gave me permission to explore the warehouses for historical items. Mike then donated many nice collectibles in memory of Dick. (See *Miscellaneous Donations*.)



Gil gave a lecture tour to a Bozeman ski club that had intended to ski Blacktail at Lakeside. But the slope closed due to dangerous temperature and the additional chill factor of racing down the slope. Their leader called Gil about arranging a tour, as he had seen the Museum driving past enroute to ski.

Everyone had fun, was interested, attentive, polite, and as you can see, smiling when they left. Several in the group said they learned more about American history in an hour here than a whole semester in their public school.

We are often an alternative to otherwise plans when the weather turns sour. We've been told that we've saved peoples' vacations.

Unfortunately we just learned that a young teacher from the Flathead won't bring her class because we teach older history. I don't know if it is because we are historically correct, too patriotic, or if she thinks the old history is irrelevant. Sadly, some radical groups are tearing down historic monuments, rather than gaining lessons from the past.

We invite parents and school children to encourage teachers to consider field trips here. Parents are always welcome as chaperones or to assist with our reasonable fee.



MOAM Receives GPCF Trust Grant

There are many worthwhile projects asking for money these days. We are so grateful for the **Greater Polson Community Foundation** who gifted us with another trust grant this February with a \$3,000 check. The Foundation realizes that we are an asset and draw to the community. They often help us with smaller special project grants. Pictured is GPCF President Toni Young Whealon presenting the check to Gil.



MOAM Loves Publicity

KOFI radio interviewed me the morning of March 14, and we appreciate their publicity.

A freelance photographer from Montana Tourism is covering the Museum for the tourist season, and Glacier Country will publicize a short virtual tour.

The word is getting out. It's not just out-of-staters who pick up these publications. We encourage locals to share them with your visitors, as well.

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

From front page

Pictured are items from **Dick Schultz's** collections. A WWII ship's binnacle – the compass of a ship with special adjustable features to overcome the ship's steel structure to give a true course reading. Obviously one of the most important pieces of equipment for successful navigation. Included in the grouping was a 15" porthole, and metal



collectible toys from childhood. Several donated tools have already been used in the restoration shop including a heavy duty pedestal grinder, large drills, sanders, electronic testing equipment and more.



We try and combine our trips to save gas and time. We had two reasons for business up Columbia Falls way, so when I had an opportunity to make a museum presentation at a C. Falls Chamber luncheon on Valentines Day, it was an opportunity for Helen and me to pick up a nice 1972 John Deere snowmobile donated by **Glen Wehe**.



Joyce King mailed us a 1943 Boy Scout handbook, first aid kit, and scarf and a photo of husband **Bob** as a young scout.



True to our museum theme, “from the walking plow to walking on the moon”, **Tom Molloy** “landed” with a desk top model of an Atlas V 500 model rocket and a model of a space based laser demonstrator. Many of our space age related items have orbited to our Alien autopsy building (Quonset) which is a favorite for many visitors.





Lawnmowing Through the Ages?

We now display a 1920 Schnitzmeyer photo donated by the late Paul Fugleberg. It's of a flock of sheep with Flathead Lake in the background. I tried to get an accurate count, (but kept falling asleep!) There must be a couple thousand sheep.

One evening Helen and I searched for the exact spot from where Mr. Schnitzmeyer was when he took the photo. By lining up landscape points we feel we were within ten feet of where he stood. The spot is now occupied by a part of the new Polson nine-hole Golf Course.



We realize the photo won't show up too well here, so you'll just have to visit the museum to get a better view. We do have some very unique golf course mowing machines and equipment. The largest thing related to golfing was donated by **Roy and Vicki Brown** and is a 1947 Toro Bullet golf course tractor of the same style that Arnold Palmer used in a Pennzoil Oil commercial. So you just never know what comes through our door or shop gate.

Toys Aren't What They Used To Be



Early day entrepreneurs figured if they made toys related to the real things the adults used, the children would want them.

Today's children of yesteryear – now adults – pay more money than the real ones cost when new. Most were made of lead or cast iron.

Many were made as military figures. The rare one pictured was donated by **Bob Moss** of Swan Lake, MT.

Membership includes free admission, newsletter and discount in our Gift Shop, plus the satisfaction that you are supporting our mission to preserve history.

We Salute our Members and Donors

Our financial donors are so important to us with the prices of goods and services rising. (Neither Helen nor I receive any pay.)

Please forgive me if I forget or give you credit twice. Some wish to remain anonymous. We issue tax receipts if requested.

Annual Support Levels: Single \$50; Family \$100; Corporate \$200; Life \$1,000.

Donors/memberships: Boyle family trust, George Brimhall, Pat Fleming, Eric and Carolyn Hall, Ron Hoefke, Kathryn Johnson, Mike Hutchin, Don Lodmell, Robert and Maggie Nickish, Jim and Donna Pomajevich, Steve Weissenberger and Jan Nelson, Bob Skans, and West Wind Courier Service.

We notice large bequests to other worthy causes, even from folks who appreciated our museum. Please know that you need to put in writing in the form of a will or bequest if you want to help MOAM. Your administrator or heirs may not know of us or be aware of your wishes.

If someone wanted to leave a large enough gift to build our village church you could be memorialized on a plaque. It is estimated at \$190,000. We have a large bell for the steeple, several stained glass windows, pews, antique organs, etc. May we show you the plans?

Pray that the legislature will vote in our favor to replace the barn so we can get started this Spring. Thanks go to Rep. Linda Reksten.



New Life for a Forgotten Oldie

David has been working on our Model T school bus which needed major wood working and top material repairs. The bus body reportedly started out as a WWI army ambulance and was probably kept stateside for training purposes. Next it was used as a school bus in Hot Springs, Montana. The last known use was just the body being used as a children's playhouse in a backyard. We had just enough Model T Ford parts to put it all back in one piece. Maybe we'll name it "Lazarus!"

We may give rides from our 1912 one-room Green Mountain School on Live History Days. With the cold weather we had to keep the shop stove going to warm temperatures up enough so volunteer **Tammi Baer** could work on painting it.



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A Special Season of Hope and Redemption Begins . . .

I recently saw a Facebook cartoon of Jesus on a hillside preaching to his Apostles and a large group of followers. He said, "I want you to pay attention, I don't want to hear four different reports on what I'm going to tell you."

Although Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John reported details of Christ's life and ministry in their own style, they all agreed on the mission of the Savior to atone for our sins, that He was crucified, died, was buried, and

Resurrected. Our hope today as we approach this Easter season is, in spite of dark times and seasons, there is Salvation in Jesus Christ

– Gil

He is Risen

Join Us July 15 and 16, 2023 for MOAM Living History Days!

It's not too early to be thinking of our annual summer gathering!

Demonstrations of historic skills, trades and arts, rides, food and fun for the whole family!



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



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!"

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