



# Miracle of America Museum

SPRING 2013

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860 406-883-6804 [www.miracleofamericamuseum.org](http://www.miracleofamericamuseum.org) • [info@miracleofamericamuseum.org](mailto:info@miracleofamericamuseum.org)

## 70 motorcycles now on display – Donations from across the US

The most recent and distant donation came all the way from Plainville, CT! Lou at Ro-Brand Products, Inc. sent 50 lbs of packaged automotive fasteners and specialties including hose clamps, electrical connectors, etc. We re very grateful for these essentials that will be useful in repairs and restorations. Check them out at [www.robrandproducts.com](http://www.robrandproducts.com).

The longest item for our collection was the 15-foot 1930s Old Town canoe donated in memory of **Robert L. Maddox** by his daughter **Virginia Maddox Hankins**. Bob Maddox was band director in Cisco, Texas and in appreciation for his dedication to the school and his students, the parents presented this canoe to him. His daughter reports that he spent many enjoyable hours fishing in the peace and quiet of local lakes. He brought it when he moved north to Montana to his orchard (1960 to 1978) bordering the Yellow Bay Clubhouse. Bob continued enjoying it summers on Flathead Lake. My fond memories of Bob were of a polite and true gentleman. He was kind enough to tutor my daughter Cathleen with her flute to the point that she became first chair in the Bigfork high school band.

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## Executive Board of Directors

Gil Mangels, President  
Cathleen Wilde, VP; Ned Wilde, Treas.  
Nancy Pray, Secretary  
Gracia Normandeau Jones  
Kendall Dupuis Mike Maddy  
Stan Cohen Art Mangels Annette Schiele  
**Advisory Director** • Jim Pomajevich

## Making the best of a mild winter

So far this year, we've had visitors from 27 states, six countries, and five Canadian Provinces.

Winter hasn't really come to our valley yet and the calendar says it's almost spring. No snow and fairly mild temperatures have allowed us to work on several outside projects thanks in part to volunteers **David Bosley** and **Scott Perry**.

Included in the restorations or fix-ups are horse and tractor drawn implements, two visible gas pumps with the 10-gallon gravity-feed glass cylinder on top; a fairly rare John Deere grain elevator, and our Mak-a-Tractor. After 44 years of owning a 1924 Model T Ford tractor attachment, I decided it was time to complete it. Almost a dozen different companies sold various styles of units to convert a farmer's T Ford into a tractor for field work and then he could take it off and put the rear wheels and tires back on for normal use.



# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS *continued*

**Phyllis Miller** of Moses Lake, WA, sent us five eight-inch tall dolls beautifully dressed in vintage clothing.

**Leroy Lau** occasionally supplies memorabilia, mostly from the Polson Creamery and bottling plant. *(Photo at right)*

**Jerry McCullough** of Spokane, greatly discounted an item that had been on loan here for many years. The museum can now afford to buy his father's 1917 Smith Motorwheel mounted on a period bicycle thanks to Jerry's generosity.

The fastest donation was a 1979 Yamaha XT500 motorcycle in immaculate condition donated by **Jim Eggebrecht**. That puts our collection of vintage and collectable motorcycles, including motorbikes, and motorwheels over the 70 count.



## *We salute our* Members and Cash donors

### *Life Members:*

Art and Nell Mangels.

### *Sustaining:*

Ken Soward                      John Erkkila

Bob Skans                      Donna Rolfson

Bob and Sharon Fulton

Kathryn Johnson

Irv and Mimi Milheim

### *Family memberships:*

Susanne Rosenthal

Heather Holmes

Rick VanVoast

Nellie Heckman.

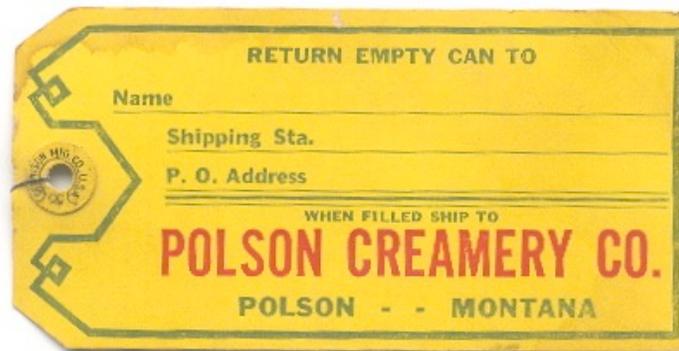
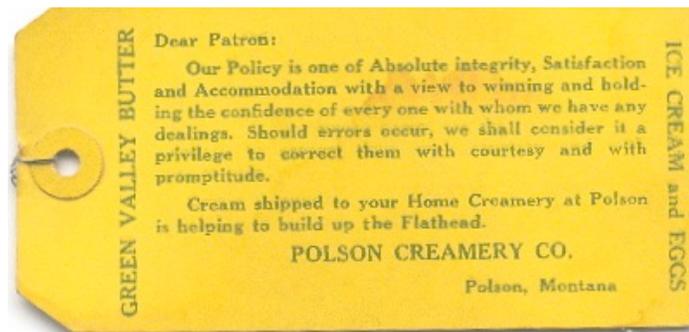


If you have access to a computer, the photos come out in color with clarity. Speaking of that, my heartfelt thanks to Carmine Mowbray, for formatting the newsletter and for writing and submitting letters of recommendation for grant and award applications.

I depend on my grandson from Pocatello, ID, Brandon K. Wilde, who uploads the newsletter on our website and helps me with computer technicalities.

*Newsletter layout courtesy of  
Carmine Mowbray of*

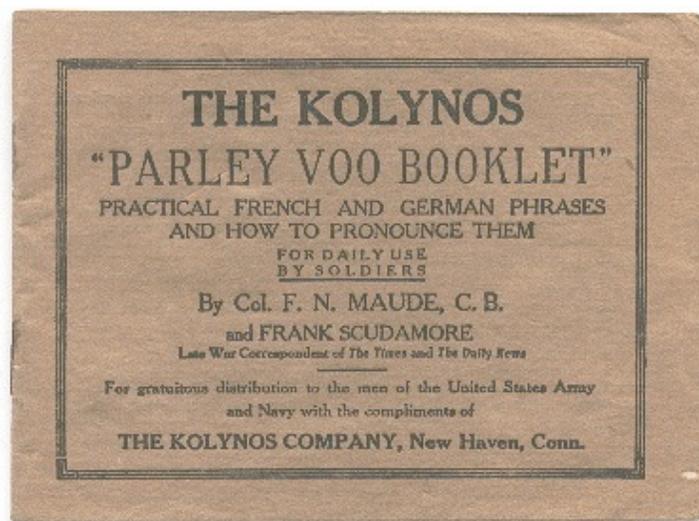
 **CLARITY**  
Communications  
Polson, Montana



**Jim Burrowes** donated miscellaneous vintage tools, auto parts, a picnic table, shelving and other useful items.

Chief museum "picker" **Howard Hudson** made several trips to the museum from Kalispell with loads of historic and useful items. The most unusual item was a mutant mouse born with only ½ a body. It lived long enough to have hair. Howard put it in a corked test tube preserved with alcohol. It now resides on our 1928 physics and biology lab table in the schoolhouse. **Don Smart**, another museum "picker" brought in a WW1 pocket booklet with practical French and German phrases. *(Photo below)*

Don's uncle worked with notable regional photographer Herman Schnitzmeyer, so Don is always on the lookout for old photos and shares them with us. He also donated a 1950 Nash Ambassador 2-door car. It needs a couple of pieces of stainless trim and some body work.



# MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS *continued*

**Pat Fleming** often brings things in. He farms in the Pablo area including land that the old Pablo house used to sit on. I always wondered if the legends that there was gold hidden in the old deserted house just south of the town along the old Hwy 93 were true. About the only thing that Pat dug up though, were old rusty wrenches and odd bits of machinery. His most recent donation was the business end of Mr. Pablo's branding iron that he found in the field. It was a very professionally made iron with the connecting pieces forge riveted. *(Photo inset)*



**Karen Scalf** donated a wooden handled scythe and a pair of downhill skis with boots and a framed photograph when she was the 1974 Idaho Miss Northern Division ski champion and queen finalist for Miss USA.

**Dwight Richards** of Pablo donated an oxy/acetylene torch with Japanese markings. His father, Glen – E7 US Navy – picked it up in Okinawa during the last days of WW11.

**Arlen Wisseman** donated a state-of-the-art boat he and his brother built from aluminum. It has fins like a '57 Chrysler products car and portholes like a '57 Buick. The Six cylinder engine lies on its side in the stern. Truly a one-of-a-kind runabout!

**Ron Beierle/Old West Photo Archives** from Missoula, sent us some nice 8x10 photos of early day Polson.

**Ed Brueckman** and **Fred Ashley** dba Smith Septic donated the use of a portable toilet which was very much appreciated by Live History Days participants.



*Looking just south of the town of Pablo; old Pablo house in distance*

## Membership

Membership to the Miracle of America Museum is tax-deductible and allows you free admission, newsletters and 10% discount in our gift shop.

We really appreciate our supporters who remember to send donations.

A star beside your name on the address label means this may be the last newsletter you receive unless we hear from you. If you wish to remain on our mailing list, please let us know.

Family membership: \$25 to \$99

Annual Sustaining: \$100 to \$199

Corporate Sustaining: \$200 to \$999

Lifetime: \$1000 or above

In spite of the difficult economy and partially because of it, our Endowment fund needs to be enlarged. Only the interest income is used each year and the banks are presently not paying much. The board is again asking that you please consider donating the museum 1% to 5% of your estate to the Miracle of America Museum endowment fund.

If enough folks choose this sort of gifting it would help insure continued preservation of our collections and displays for your posterity to enjoy. If you agree, please consider discussing this with your estate planner or lawyer.

**Thank you very much for your support**

*Miracle of America Museum*

*36094 Memory Lane*

*Polson, MT 59860*



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Permit #89

**history days!**

**Live**



**LIVE HISTORY DAYS**

July 20 and 21!

Help us make it

**BIGGER and BETTER** than ever!

Call us today to reserve your place!



**National Nurses Week – May 6-12**

*Free Museum admission*

for all nurses, nurse assistants and all who serve in nursing-related jobs.

Call for extended hours to accommodate your schedule: 883-6804

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and blessed Easter



I wish we could afford to print the newsletter in color to show the beauty of this 1909 Easter card symbolizing through the doves the peace that the Savior, Jesus Christ can bring to us even in a world wracked with turmoil and hate.

*Blessed Easter to you  
and your family,  
Gil*