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Miracle of America Museum

Summer 2014

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Visitors from 48 states; 24 nations

I'm beginning this newsletter the first dry day we've had for about a week. My feet are hurting. Maybe they're trying to morph into webs!

Since the beginning of 2014, we've had visitors from 48 states, (so far only missing Rhode Island and Vermont) 22 countries, and six Canadian provinces.

We'd like to acknowledge Paul and Carlisa London, of Polson KOA and Polson RV Resort for honorable mention. They and their fine crew have sent the most visitors to us this quarter.

Museum friends pass – Memorial donations enrich collections

So much to write about. Sadly we lost a couple of long-time museum friends. Sometimes I don't even hear about it until months later. Some over the years would have wanted memorials for them made to the museum. Unfortunately, those wishes weren't made known to the family. We send condolences to the families of Jane Winkley, Carlyle "Chic" Webb, and Greg Swinger.

A donation made in memory of Greg floated on in, in the form of a 1940 Burchcraft motorboat he had restored.



Live History Days July 19, 20!

We're looking forward to another terrific weekend of vintage and educational fun! Join us for Live History days again on July 19 and 20. Please mark your calendars and see who you can involve.

Upcoming Thursday Night program

Our "Second Thursday" monthly evening programs have featured Flick Riebe sharing his experiences centered around D-Day; and Chuck Lewis sharing flag etiquette and his walk across America for wounded veterans. The upcoming program on July 10 will feature early day motorcycling with a documentary from Harley Davidson. The program starts at 6:30. If time permits, stories of special interest from our cycle and memorabilia collection will be presented.



Uniforms, medals, and related military memorabilia, as well as miscellaneous antiques were donated in memory of Chic. The Webbs owned Flowers Carlyle on Main Street for many years and Chic was also a crop duster in his biplane. During WWII, 1st Lt. Webb flew 65 bombing missions in B-26 Martin Marauders into Europe. On D-Day the main targets of Chic's "Silver Streaks" of the 494th Bomb Squadron of the 344th Bomb Group of the 9th Army Air Corp, were Nazi gun emplacements. Included in our collection are several letters of commendation and Chic's Distinguished Flying Cross praising the group for their dedication and pinpoint accuracy in spite of heavy flak.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Howard Hudson- Glacier Park and Montana historical books and memorabilia, misc. and a steel McGill mouse trap. We didn't have this one in our collection of 70 traps;

Hayes Otoupalik: Civil War bayonet to fit the rifle mentioned in our previous newsletter, and two different Navy Lifeboat Mark 1 Solar Stills to convert sea water into drinking water;

Bruce Bowman: Nice grouping of baby christening dress, bonnet, shoes and misc. clothes;

Zachary Luna: Berkesy Audiometer. Probably used in public schools, but now displayed in our medical building;

Bob and Sue King: 50's diner/ fountain advertising displays.

In kind donors: Cesar Hernandez, Sign Painting and several days of carpentry work; Glacier Lake Sand and Gravel (883-3773), truckload of fractured rock; Raceway Park – Thornton family and general manager, Ryan Augusta, museum sign on

racetrack board wall; Joel Gleason Arena, another sign site; and Paul London, Polson KOA and Motor Coach and RV Resort, a spot on their area attraction map. Chuck Tremblay, overhauling a 1947 Ford V-8 flathead for our dirt-track racer.

Below left: Diner advertising; Right: shed extension is one of our recent additions to shelter equipment. We thank Cesar Hernandez for his help on this.



Sign upgrades, replacement progress

Even the best paint will only last a few years, so we are replacing signs as funds permit with 1/8" steel with plasma cut letters, and having them powder-coated. The Green Mountain School is probably next, but it will cost between \$350 and \$400 and we need to find a sponsor for that.



We salute our Members and Cash donors this past quarter

Ruth Baxter, Phyllis Heck, Nancy Pray, and Dave Sergent.

Family Memberships: Annette Schiele and Patricia Wooldridge.

Life Membership: Wanda C. Kemp-Maxson

Cash donations: George and Brenda Brimhall, \$1,000 to endowment; Bert and Kathy Smith, \$500 to Paul Bunyan fund; James Hayes Communications, \$200 to building project;

Memorials: Kathleen Welch Gray \$25 and Stella Larson Schaffer \$200. Both of these went respectively to new signs for Jack Welch Saddlery and James Schaffer Foundry.

Jim Pomajevich is matching donations from board members. And speaking of that, If anyone would be interested in serving a 1, 2, or 3 yr. term on the board, please let me know and I will give your name to the nominating committee.



Come ride the Humvee during Live History Days! July 19 -20!



Newsletter layout courtesy of Carmine Mowbray of



Visitors of note

We recently hosted the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with visiting officers of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). I gave a demonstration of how a flintlock gun worked and a tour of our revolutionary and constitution displays. We also gave several school lecture tours with schools as far away as Fortine. The Ronan School wanted a ride in a 100-year old vehicle so we obliged with a ride in our 1914 Model T Ford.

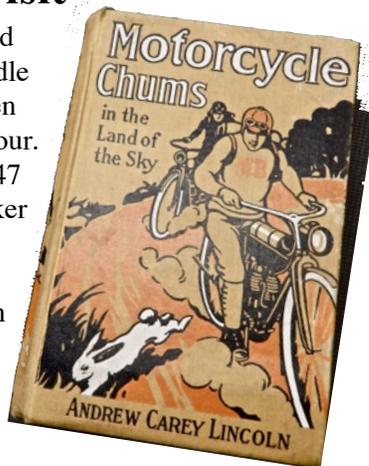


Fiddlesticks Recital

Fiddlesticks School of Music had a recital in our public meeting room the first part of March. It was a nice program, but sad that so few younger folks learn music anymore.

Motorcycle Chums visit

Last Friday, the 20th the Flathead Motorcycle Chums, a group of middle age/ senior bikers rode about a dozen collectable bikes down and took a tour. The oldest bike of the run was a 1947 Indian Chief. They took their moniker from the title of circa 1912 juvenile books, "Motorcycle Chums". We have about a dozen of such books in our cycle memorabilia collection, and they always taught a good moral.



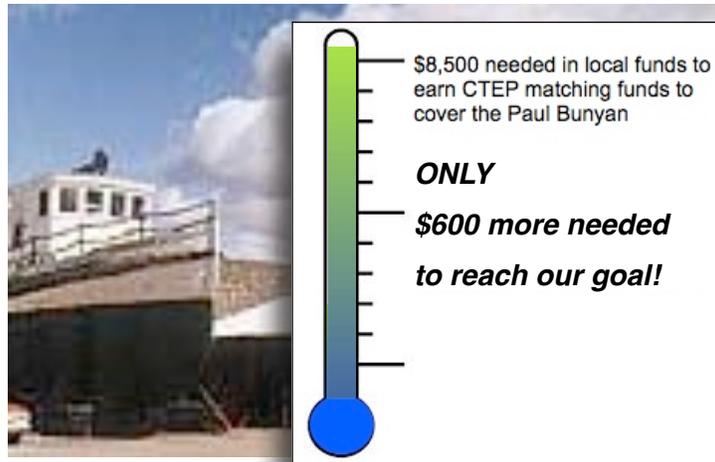
Memorial Day efforts

We had three military vehicles in the Polson Memorial Day Parade. I also drove the Vietnam era jeep with special tribute trailer to the Lakeview Cemetery memorial service, Ronan parade, and the Ninepipes Museum memorial service. It was a long, but spiritually rewarding day.



Now within \$600 of Paul Bunyan Goal!

In order to preserve the Paul Bunyan, we have designed a permanent shelter. We were awarded a Montana State Community Transportation Enhancement Program (CTEP) grant to provide about 80% of the cost, with a local match to cover the rest. At this time, we are within \$600 to raise for the match. Won't you help us get to the top?



Notice to folks with change of address:

This issue you will notice we no longer provide "return service" on mail to undeliverable addresses. Unfortunately it costs us when mail is returned from snowbirds or winter travelers. Please let us know of any change to your mailing address. We want you to stay informed.

Membership clarification

There has been some confusion over Museum memberships.

An individual is \$25, a family (immediate family) is \$50. Our tear sheet should list the correct amount. Our apologies for any lack of clarity. Any amount you send over the membership price will be considered a *miscellaneous donation* and listed as such unless you specify a category.

Donate to the Museum by...

Mailing a check to us at:
36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860
Or go to www.miracleofamericamuseum.org and use PayPal, the secure way to donate,
For other ways to donate (such as your time), please contact Gil at 406-883-6264 or 883-6804

1918 Indian displayed

The last week of April, I displayed my restored 1918 Indian racer at the NOWA (Northwest Outdoor Writers Convention) at the vet's meeting room and gave a short presentation. No, I did not ride it up the stairs, but I did ride it around the loop out front of the museum last month. That was exciting after taking so many years to build/restore it.

I'm thankful for the dedicated receptionists that allow me to participate in things like that and have a day trip away once in a while.

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Polson, MT 59860



Quote of the month:



Gil

LIVE HISTORY DAYS – Saturday and Sunday July 19 and 20!



Live History Days takes place both days – July 19 and 20 – Ice cream treats at the fountain; rides on two trains and two or three Army rigs, spinners and a wood carver; the popular “Country Combo” of fiddlers, pickers, singers and accordions will entertain Saturday afternoon for your listening and dancing pleasure. See the sawmill in action; the jet trainer cockpit will be open for viewing and photo ops.

The steam train and a steam tractor will probably be fired up. Watch the tennis ball cannon, blacksmith shop, some of our whirling flywheel engines and historic movies in the

meeting room. We hope to have a reader in the one-room schoolhouse.

Join the fun! Sell your wares!

Be part of history!

We welcome new exhibitors and volunteers! Vendors must have a direct link to things historical i.e. soap making, broom making, pottery, beading, etc. Call to check. Demonstrators may sell their handmade wares.



One of our favorite demonstrations was a broom maker who was just passing through and visiting relatives. He almost sold out. Persons interested in driving or operating items in the museum collection should contact Gil well in advance, for orientation and familiarization. Call us at 883-6264.

