



Miracle of America Museum

Summer 2015

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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

Executive Board of Directors

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Cathleen Wilde, Board Chair
Nancy Pray, secretary • Ned Wilde, Treasurer
Kendall Dupuis • Mike Maddy • Stan Cohen
Ned Wilde • Annette Schiele • Art Mangels

Museum gets more quality help

Experience Works has placed another worker here for 20 hrs. per week. Kyle Matson does a good job keeping the grounds looking neat and digging knapweed and dandelions. Erma and Cheryl – from the same program – are our faithful receptionists, although Erma will probably be leaving us this Fall. If you are over 55 and interested in a 20 hr. a week job, please contact me or the local program.

June visitor from 50th state earliest ever – Museum starts season with good attendance

Good things have been happening at the MOAM. On June 9 – the earliest ever – we hosted visitors from the 50th state. That is a record for us.

The increased visitation has allowed us to budget for a nearly full time employee, David Bosley, who has done a lot of volunteer work at the museum for several years. Many would recognize him as our train engineer, pictured at right. He can get most anything running or operating, drives

his choice of most of the vehicles in parades or gives rides on the museum grounds. Most recently he gave rides to 19 Ronan first graders in our 1914 Model T Ford. Since this doesn't have an electric starter, I did the cranking, but it started on the first flip. That was another good thing! David is also rebuilding an 1890's stationary belt drive hay baler which I purchased over 45 years ago, (photo at left.) With many of the agriculture – and other – items, we replace broken, rotted, or missing parts and make it operational, leaving the original finish or patina.

Occasionally we will paint something as close to the original color as possible.

David is also helping me service and restore a 1957 Nash Metropolitan coupe I recently bought, (bottom right.) It hadn't been out of the garage since 1980. I had been looking for one of these for some time to complete my "family" (aligning them with the "Three Bears" children's story) with a Papa – '51 Ambassador Super Airflyte; a Momma – '53 Nash Rambler; and the



Baby – a Metropolitan. Ironically I bought it at an estate auction just two miles away.





Part of our stable of rolling stock, from which David Bosley, Gil and volunteers drive in parades.

The Model T at center is started with an engine crank, typical of the era. The Jeep was one of four vehicles we drove in the 2015 Memorial Day Parade in Polson.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Some of our building fund budget had to help w/ a horrendous rise in our insurance rates. However, we got the hard part done and just need 12 more sheets of plywood to finish this 1280 square foot lean-to for nicer ag collectable machinery protection. The salvaged but very reusable steel roofing was donated by Jim Burrowes. This also covers most of the sheep ramp to the upper floor of the Snyder/Trusler barn.



Our amazing volunteers keep MOAM going strong

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) comes through with some amazing volunteers. Gene DeCarlo made an expanded gun display case which allowed the viewing of 15 more pieces. He also finished our cashier window in the 1912 bank building. Speaking of banking, I thought you might enjoy my picture of a recent bank visitor with over a 5" wingspan. Perhaps it flew out of a spendthrift's wallet, as the old joke goes.

Reneé Loehr has volunteered to spearhead the concessions and fountain treats at our Live History Days again this

year. A huge load off my shoulders. What a blessing she and all her recruits were last year!

Of course behind the scenes is our board of directors (*listed on page 1*) and our advisory friends who sacrifice time and travel for our quarterly board meetings and other helpful tasks. We need to add more board members to replace those whose terms are about to expire. If you would be interested in serving a 1, 2, or 3 year term on the board, please let your wishes be known along with your interests, expertise, and possible benefits to the museum, and I will pass it on to the nominating committee. You do not necessarily have to live in the area, as some of our meetings can be attended with conference calls.



Newsletter layout courtesy of Carmine Mowbray of



We salute our Members and Cash donors

Renewing Family Memberships:

Cathleen Wilde, and Ned Wilde.

Cash donations:

\$100 from the Donna Rolfson Trust, John Mercer, Trustee; \$50 Family memberships include Heather Holmes family, Ben Murray family, and Blazej Masiak family.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Marvin Carlyle – pedal grindstone in memory of his wife, Joyce and his sister-in-law Joan;

Nancy Glueckert – vintage womens clothing;

Howard Hudson – numerous vintage souvenirs of Glacier Park, WWII military wooden back pack board;

Leslie Kline – Eggomatic candler and egg grader;

Jane Farnum Laraby – 145 lbs. of miscellaneous. tools and carpenter tool box;

Keith McCurdy – 1910 White Family Rotary “mission” treadle sewing machine, (*photo at right.*)

Ron Noble – 5 foot high Alaska carved totem pole.

Read family trust/Ray Reed trustee – pitcher water pump, trailer house, 6 vintage lights from the Ronan Gaiety Theater. We’d sure like to get a photo of them on the building. *Do you know if one exists?*

Gerald Roat – Two running Coast-to-Coast lawnmowers, one for parts and a Rotary snowplow;

Lulu Stock – various items including this box of canning jar rubbers, (*photo at left.*) It seems such a small/basic item to picture, but the beautiful rich colors used in

early day marketing is so striking. And the contents? Preserving and canning garden produce was so important for the sustaining of the lives of our ancestors.



Sculpture art sales benefit MOAM



Sculptures “Race to the Top,” “Safe” and “Rhumba” (lower right.)

Another way I try to raise funds for the museum is with my whimsical metal sculpture art made from repurposed items. The pictures really don’t show them well. You will see them better by enlarging them online, or at the Museum.

“Rhumba” is indeed a wrenching experience. It is made from two vintage 22” serpentine wrenches, smaller wrenches for arms, cream separator discs for a dress, etc.

“Race to the Top” was made from repurposed old garage door track rollers and a flat coil spring.

“Safe” shows a mother holding a child in her lap. I made it from races and steelies from large ball bearings. The mother’s bonnet was a cage from a tapered roller bearing.

These are all artist originals, Montana-made, one-of-a-kind pieces signed and dated by me. Even if I make similar ones, each will be a unique piece of keepsake sculpture. They are individually priced and in the gift shop and some of the pieces are outside, although some outside pieces are display only – Gil



INVEST in the FUTURE

The Miracle of America Museum provides an environment for the preservation and presentation of history for all ages. Admissions generate income and help us pay the operational expenses, but they are not enough to cover all the costs entailed in running the museum. Additional resources ensure that educational programs continue and preservation and exhibits can be maintained. Please consider investing in the future by making a cash donation today.

The Endowment Fund provides long-term sustainable income for the MOAM. Donations to this fund are invested for perpetuity and only the interest on these investments is spent. The interest becomes a part of the operating budget. Making a donation to the Endowment Fund is a way of perpetuating your support for the Museum since the actual gift will never be spent. Due to this fact, all memorial, planned and deferred gifts are designated to the Endowment Fund.

Every single gift matters. Taken in the aggregate, all gifts, large and small, are essential to the overall goal. So join us at whatever level you can.



36094 Memory Lane
Polson, MT 59860



www.miracleofamericamuseum.org



Live History Days - Saturday and Sunday July 18 and 19!

Mark your calendars
for a fun-filled weekend!

- ★ Pioneer Crafts
- ★ Historic Demonstrations -
Flint napper, Civil War expert,
leather working, woodcarving,
rope making.
- ★ Rides!
- ★ Historic movies! 
- ★ Music and Ice cream

"A Night at the Museum" - Second Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM • Free and fun family entertainment.
Movies!! Readings!! • Displays and tours of select items!!

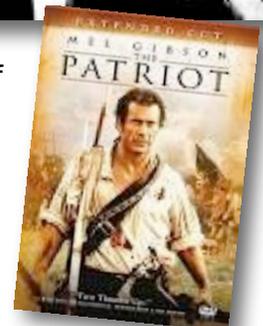
• **July 9** – Harley Davidson - The American Motorcycle. 73-minute documentary on the history of cycling and the evolution of this last remaining American cycle manufacturer. Plus a guided tour of the MOAM's vintage and rare Harleys



• **August 13** – The best of Victor Borge. A guaranteed night of laughter and entertainment by the master funnyman of the age. 90 minutes. He also works in a few wild notes on his "pianano."



• **September 10** – Columbia Pictures presents a feature length film, *The Patriot* starring Mel Gibson. A fitting film shown one day before National Patriot Day and a week before National Citizenship Day. Gil will also dry-fire demonstrate a couple of Revolutionary War guns, and explain some of the accessories of the period Minuteman/Continental soldier.



*Treats and donations are welcome for each
"Night at the Museum".
Call Gil, 406-883-6264.*