

Autumn 2016

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Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Funds to shift to MOAM Endowment

The endowment fund recently received a shot in the arm with a pledge of up to \$25,000 as a matching gift for all proceeds coming from deaccessioned items – those Gil has purchased over the years, or items the donor suggested could be sold to raise funds.

The first such contribution was \$3,000 to match the \$3,000 from a vehicle that was sold. An additional \$3,725 was transferred to the endowment from memberships.

At a recent Board meeting, the emphasis was on the endowment to fund a curator for Gil's eventual replacement. In order for the interest to fund the necessary personnel, we will need \$2,500,000 in the permanent endowment. We currently have less than one tenth of that amount.

There are persons or foundations out there that could help us reach our goal who have yet to be introduced to our need. Please help. Perhaps you might set up an account of Donor Advised Funds and agree to a Match of our membership funds or in honor or memory of a loved one.

Result of extended hours— Record attendance this season

Labor Day weekend brings mixed emotions. A time to pick up paper and pen to report the blessings of Summer. A time to be thankful for the record number of visitors who took advantage of the extended Summer hours, and yet to look forward to the shortened hours of Fall which are typically 9-5 M-S and 1:30 -5 on Sunday. A time to be thankful for those bringing or sending friends and family, for those marketing us in various ways including internet posting and placing brochures. Then there are those who pray for us, volunteer in various ways, donating time, money, heirlooms, or other useful items.

Personally, I am most thankful for having a “2nd Mate” come aboard. *See related story, below.*

Mangels' new bride dedicated to MOAM

Helen Horner and I were married July 16 and we are a good team. Joanne had been gone four years, and Helen had been widowed for six years.

Long distance attendees at the wedding were my son, Ron from Louisiana, and granddaughter Desiré from Arkansas, who both flew in special for the event. Another granddaughter Becky, husband Curtis and family came from Utah and as well as son Ron, were a huge help with the Live History day weekend.

Helen's sister Ruthie came from Arizona for the wedding. Many of Helen's posterity were here for the wedding and many helped for the whole weekend. My brother Art was best man, and he and wife Nell were a big help as well.

Helen and I had known one another as kids in 4-H and actually dated for a few months after I got out of the service. She is dedicated to the museum also and likes working with me on various projects.

She has been an LPN for 40 years, so knows how to interact with people. At left, she is pictured in the sidecar of my 1941 Indian four cylinder motorcycle in the Polson 4th of July parade. I was chosen by the Chamber to be parade marshall this year, so led the parade right behind the honor guard, so we didn't have to dodge horse droppings.



The Past and Its Lessons are Gifts for the Future. Give Today

For many years MOAM has concentrated on collecting important items vital to telling the story of America. To advance the future of the MOAM we have established an endowment and chosen the Montana Community Foundation (MCF) as our partner in philanthropy. Endowment growth is vital to achieve the Museum's ambitious goals.

Through MCF there are many ways to give and 100% of your donation benefits the MOAM endowment. It doesn't matter how you give, it simply matters that you give. To ensure that your donation benefits our endowment make your check payable to or direct your gift to "MCF/ Miracle of America Museum. Mail your check to Montana Community foundation, 1 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1, Helena, MT 59601. You can find out more by going to www.mtcf.org/Giving/Ways-to-Give. Contributions are tax deductible.

Veteran tribute in Kalispell— MOAM takes first place

The theme of the Kalispell Fair parade this year was "Montana's Best" so we had a special sign made for the hood of the jeep. We took first place in the non-commercial division. We like the sign so well, that it will be a permanent fixture on the jeep. The jeep, commonly called the MUTT is slated to be in the Dayton Daze parade as well.

Ronan applauds MOAM tribute—

Vietnam era jeep and veteran tribute trailer always gets applause by the young and old alike. Here it is in the Ronan Pioneer Days parade.

We salute our Members and donors

Individual – Patricia Hurt, Nancy Pray;

Annual family – Marvin Carlyle, Annette Schiele;

Annual sustaining – Amy Webster, Steve and Nancy Jackson;

Annual corporate sponsor – Access Montana.

If I have forgotten anyone, it is unintentional. Perhaps it was in the last newsletter or got in too late for this one.



CONDOLENCES

This last quarter include the families of Elvis, E.G. Smith who had donated some of his finely and accurately reproduced items of the fur trade; and Dennis Ingraham who in memory of his father Alton, and friend Jim Peterson, donated a deactivated WWI German machine gun. See story, below.

Rare WWI machine gun on display

A very few visitors are bothered by some of these terrible instruments of war like this which probably led the list at being a "widow maker" during the dark days of WWI, while the GI's bringing the spoils of war souvenirs home thought it more humane than bringing home scalps.

To military collectors, this Model 1908 Maxim heavy machine gun made in 8mm caliber in 1918 is a most desirable piece. Even more rare is it's "sled mount" which could be folded in order to drag along the ground or carried by two or four soldiers by the legs. I had been after this for over 40 yrs., and given up on ever acquiring it. However, just 3 days before his passing, Dennis invited me to pick it up and signed it over to the museum.



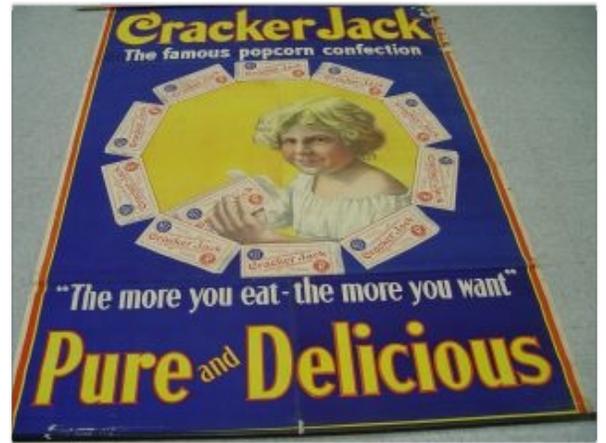
Bishop Insurance staff selects MOAM—

Bishop Insurance is “Cracker Jack”! We’re using the old-fashioned 1890s term given the favorite treat, meaning that it was superior quality.

The Bishop Insurance staff selected MOAM to receive funds from their employee referral program this year.

Pete and staff members made the donation of \$700 for our special project of restoring the very rare and awesome 1890’s Cracker Jack poster which measures 6 ½ feet wide and 9 feet high.

With what the tip jar has taken in, that leaves about \$1800 to raise yet. The conservator in Texas reports it is nearing completion.



Ronan Telephone donates

The annual corporate donation of \$200 from **Ronan Telephone Company dba Access Montana** will be used for the restoration project of our circa 1950s telephone booth. Volunteer Gene DeCarlo is doing the work, but the material is very expensive and I had to buy the phone mechanism from another collector.

Coincidentally, this pay phone is from Brooklyn New York with instructions on calling Bronx and Manhattan. The very first pay phone I used was in Brooklyn in 1961 and being accustomed to crank phones on the farm in Montana, I had to ask the operator for help in dialing. If anyone has an extra Superman Costume left over from a masquerade ball, etc., that would put the finishing touch on this display.



Live History days a rousing success

In spite of a couple of exhibitor cancellations and a blown head gasket on the large air compressor engine that powers S-1, our Somers Lumber Co. rail yard switching engine, Live History Days were very successful.

The weekend was our record fund raiser and wouldn’t have been possible without the many volunteers. At the top of the list, I must mention Renate’ Luer and Shirlee Santorno who took professional control of our concessions at the soda fountain counter. They carefully organized the work schedule in spite of a few surprises beyond their control by freelance volunteers who also wanted to help.

Hood art commemorates YNP

To coincide with the National Park celebration, we thought we'd show you our Yellowstone Park car which was actually confiscated as a drug running car. Fitting then that it would be restored as a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) car.

It is very hard to deal with reflections when taking pictures, but I'm hoping you can enjoy the artwork painted on the hood.





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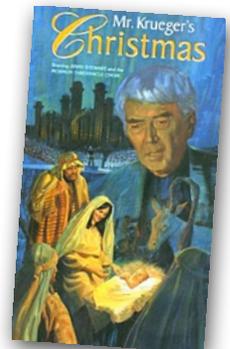
"Free Night at the Museum" – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

Classic family movies with background discussion
Displays and tours of select items!!



- **October 27** – Since it is close to Halloween, you may meet David Polson and his daughter, Agnes, back from the grave. Agnes was the favorite nanny of Peter and Mary Ronan's children.
- **November 27 is Thanksgiving**, – so we thought rather than cancel our program, we would invite attendees to bring leftovers for a potluck at 6:30 and have a program after the surprising meal.
- **December . 22** – we will sing Christmas carols, have a reading of the Christmas story and show Mr. Krueger's Christmas starring Jimmy Stewart.



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