



Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
AMERICAN ASSOC.
OF MUSEUMS

Autumn 2017



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter may be viewed online. Please go to our website and click the Newsletter tab for clearer color photos: Miracleofamericamuseum.org

Sustaining our task –

Almost daily, visitors tell us that they are so happy we have preserved and present the real, hard copy, history.

Unfortunately, it is costly to do and then there is the need to enlarge the endowment fund to keep it intact and productive.

Won't you please help us where you can in your estate planning, memorial donations and memberships? As the year ends, and you consider tax-deductible contributions, please consider us: Miracle of America Museum, 36094 Memory Lane, Polson, MT 59860.



Very special addition to collection–

MOAM receives never-before-released Pearl Harbor scrapbook

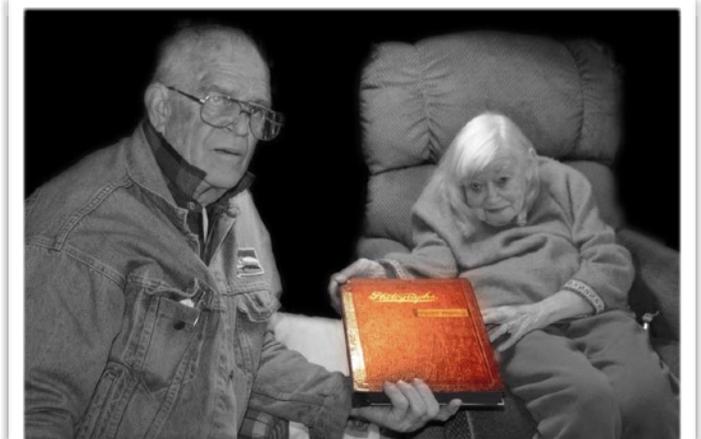
Seniors ROCK!. Our eldest donor this last quarter was 96 yr. old Alta Gibson from Hamilton. She was a professional photographer and her husband was a tool and die engineer living in Connecticut. When Pearl Harbor was bombed he immediately wanted to enlist, but the military told him he was too essential in his field of expertise and wanted both of them to go to Hawaii. Alta had been window shopping at Harley dealerships and had persuaded her husband to buy a 1935 74 cu.inch motorcycle, which they rode all the way to San Francisco to prepare to ship out to Hawaii. They were told they couldn't take their Harley with them, but perhaps they could crate it and claim it was a washing machine. That worked and they rode it on their one day a week off around the island.

How does this relate to our very special December fourth Thursday free "Night at the Museum"?

Alta worked for the military photo lab where they always ran extra photographs of ship damage, restoration efforts, etc. in case they were needed. Unclaimed ones went into a scrapbook along with other interesting photos and news articles. On October 10, Helen and I traveled to Hamilton and had a delightful visit with Alta and accepted the scrapbook for preservation and display near our other Pearl Harbor exhibits. She also found two cloth and two leather skull caps (forerunner of the helmet) which I gratefully

accepted for our motorcycle display. Don't miss your chance to view the scrapbook at our December 28th free "night at the Museum" program.

With around 1,000 cameras in our collection, plus modern technology, you would think we could provide good photos. It is not always easy or possible to schedule a professional. Fortunately, we were able to get one for this special meeting and Museum acquisition. – Cindy Mae Jessop photo.



Speaking of seniors who ROCK,

next in the senior division was 92-year-old Peter Pisk who brought in his 1950s ultrasound machine with accompanying documents. It is displayed in our medical building.

A bit of living history

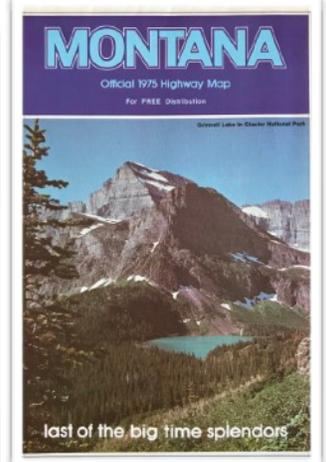
At September's free "Night at the Museum" fourth Thursday program, we were pleased to have Karen McIntire Huffine share some history about her grandparents and parents, who were old timers in the area. Karen is shown wearing her beautiful grandmother's dress.

Thank you, Karen!



Now "Picture This".

Garry Wunderwald of Clancy was for many years Montana state photographer and many of the beautiful photos on the official road maps were taken by him. He recently brought us a load of vintage cameras and related equipment totaling 116 items.



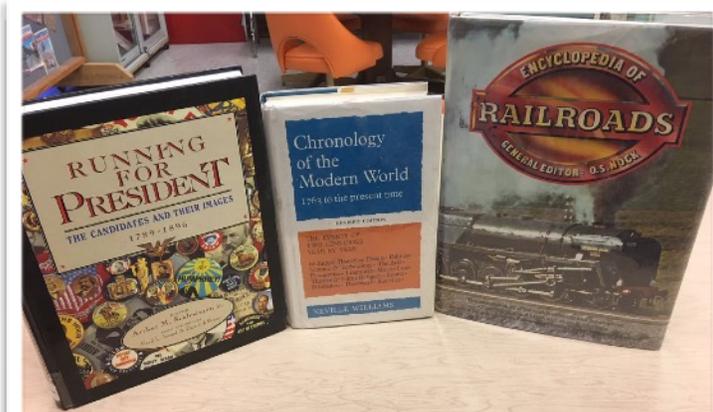
Museum rescues books doomed by digital age

Years ago I saw a movie called *Fahrenheit 451*. That happens to be the temperature at which book paper will burn. Then I was fortunate to find the 1953, and reprinted in 1996, book by Ray Bradbury. I highly recommend the book. Paralleling Orwell's book *1984*, it tells of a tyrannical government whose goal is world domination. In order to do that, they must destroy history, so the "firemen" must burn all the books and the homes that are found to be hiding any. Can a small group of concerned citizens save the world by secretly memorizing important historical books and passing the knowledge to their posterity?

Is this sounding scary yet? On a recent trip to Kalispell, Helen and I took some cans to Pacific recycling and took a photo of part of a pile of books which had been discarded by Flathead High School. Many of these were Classics and historical research books. We were allowed to take any we wanted, so we only grabbed about a dozen since my doctors appointment was looming. When we went back to sort more thoroughly, we were too late. Most of these were very



expensive hardbound. We were told that everyone is going digital. I question how many degrees it would take to fry your computer and related technology.



Friends of Museum pass

We are sad to report the loss of friend Gary Guest who had donated many cameras including some pre-owned by Glacier National Park and Great Northern Railroad official photographer, T.J. Hileman. I was also sorry to lose William Earl Moore from Calif., who grew up on his father's motorcycles in Helena. Mr. Moore was a motorcycle military policeman during WWII. He had donated many nice pieces of cycling memorabilia.

We also lost longtime friend and a recent museum receptionist, Ron Marquardt.

Our condolences go out to each family.



MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Mike Lies brought in several quality items including a brass Winchester grain scale. We're choosing to show a photo, however, of the smallest items. These 1949 metal finger rings were prizes in the bottom of Post Toasties Corn Flake boxes. A full set numbered 24 and Mike brought us 17 different ones. They were flat in a small envelope and featured famous cartoon characters. We do have some duplicates to trade for those we are missing.



The long distance award goes to the **Mullans** who visited this July and saw our 1885 Highwheeler bicycle. Upon returning home to England, They sent us a 1941 British Penny and a 1936 Farthing. The contrasting size of the coins compared to the contrasting size of the bike wheels gave it the nickname of the "Penny Farthing".



The largest donation would be the two 1930 Franklin 4-door sedans from the **Feil** family of East Wenatchee, Wash. Their father, Bob, had attended my father's funeral a few years ago, since he was my dad's best friend when they worked at Boeing Aircraft during WWII. I gave him a personalized tour of the museum and when he went back home, he told his sons that we should get the cars. They were delivered on subsequent visits by sons **Dick and Don** and their wives this summer. We will put all the best parts on one and use the sale of the extra to help fund the restoration.

William Tidwell donated a new, in its 1940 box, hand cranked air raid siren to be used by an air raid warden. Interesting to me is the fact that someone or some agency, at least thought there was an imminent danger of war in 1940.



It took 60 years to obtain this next donation. As a freshman in high school I tried to buy a 1930 five-window Model A Ford Coupe from an upperclassman and friend, **Paul Keyser**. At the time I would have made a hotrod out of it. Over the years Paul overhauled it and repainted and upholstered it and donated it this month. I will NOT be making a hotrod out of it, in fact will be making a few minor repairs on it and finding an original horn to put on it.



We salute our Members and donors

We received a \$50 donation from Susan Haack Aders and husband, Willie in memory of Oliver Dupuis who recently passed away.

So many donations have come in lately, that it is going to be hard to list them all, much less play catch up. I'm peddling as fast as I can. I am grateful for your prayers on my behalf and the Lord's healing hand which is allowing me to work harder.



The loss of Ron Marquardt leaves us shorthanded at the museum. If anyone would like to serve as receptionist, please call. I could use some carpentry help, as well. We would greatly appreciate the help.



36094 Memory Lane
Polson, MT 59860
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**Live History Days –
Mark Your Calendar:
July 21-22, 2018!**

*Keep Christ
in Christmas*



"Free Night at the Museum" – Fourth Thursdays!

6:30 pm at MOAM

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

- **Oct. 26** – "Timberjack" feature-length Trucolor movie filmed in 1955 in Glacier National Park, Polson, Bonner, and Hog Heaven. Set in Montana in the late 1880s, two logging operators compete for survival. Directed by Joseph Kane, it stars Sterling Hayden, Vera Ralston, David Brian and Adolphe Menjou. Hoagy Carmichael and Chill Wills make character appearances.
 - **Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Day** – Please join us for a "Leftover Potluck" at 6:30 and after the meal, the showing of "Duty, Honor, Sacrifice", a feature length documentary about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the training of the men who tirelessly guard it. All welcome – RSVP is appreciated regarding food.
 - **Dec. 28** – Join us for the short Christmas movie, "Mr. Krueger's Christmas" starring the lovable Jimmy Stewart. Afterwards, you'll see the *never-before-shown-to-the-public* scrapbook of official 8 x 10 photos of Pearl Harbor battle damage, salvage efforts, and rebuilding progress of the naval fleet.
- *Treats and donations are always welcome!*

