

## “Chief Joseph” Sculpture: A Vision of History

It is a vision that haunts Montana with a spirit that refused to be abandoned.

Kay Hansen covered many great Montana stories in her long career as a journalist at seven newspapers across the state. She is now part of a fascinating saga that brought a sculpture of Nez Perce Chief Joseph into the Montana Historical Society’s collection in a strange, even mystical, series of events.

Grass Range shepherd and noted Montana artist Bill Stockton, who was born in 1921, was troubled by the fate that befell American Indians with the loss of their lands and the effects it had on their culture and history. He captured his feelings in a metal statue called *From Where the Sun Now Stands, I Will Fight No More Forever*, which is commonly

known as “Chief Joseph.” Hansen said Stockton posed the work in a “style of recapitulation.”

“It’s like when you go to sleep and you remember things. That’s what it represents,” she said.

Chief Joseph and members of his tribe, seeking refuge in Canada, eluded U.S. troops on an epic journey from the Oregon’s Wallowa Valley to Montana’s Bear Paw Mountains, where they were captured after a final tragic battle.

Stockton created “Chief Joseph” and sent it to a Billings art retailer in the 1950s. Thieves later broke into the store and stole the sculpture along with two other Stockton artworks. What happened next could be seen as coincidence or the spirit world taking a strange part in keeping the Nez Perce story alive.

“A year later, Yellowstone



This haunting sculpture of Chief Joseph has a mystic history of its own.

County sheriffs were dragging the river from a bridge that crosses the Yellowstone River near Billings for a young Indian man who had jumped into the river allegedly to commit suicide,” Hansen said.

*Sculpture (cont. on p. 6)*



Kate Hampton and Pete Brown show off a new exhibit promoting preservation of “Montana Modern” buildings and properties.

## Preserving Post-WWII Buildings

It might make you feel a little old, but buildings constructed in the 1940s and 1950s—which seems like only yesterday to some—are now eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Montana Historical Society’s State Historic Preservation Office has launched a major effort to make the public aware of the need to save and restore what they are calling “Montana Modern” buildings and homes.

“Understanding how these properties represent the post-World War Two era; their associations with developments in urban planning, with Civil Rights movements, or the Cold War; and the technological developments they embody is the key to appreciating and preserving them,” said Society Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton.

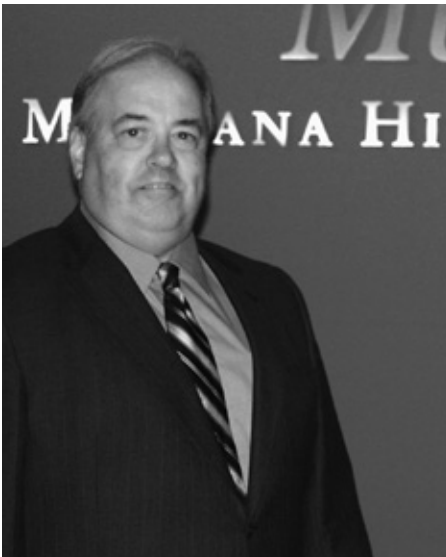
The United States experienced its largest peacetime economic  
*Montana Modern (cont. on p. 4)*

# New Society Director Bruce Whittenberg Listens to the Heart and Soul of Montana



To know where you are going, you have to know where you've been.

There is a spirit in Montana that is reflected throughout our history and will most surely shape our future. The Montana Historical Society is the heart and soul of that Montana spirit. Reflecting on the key themes that have shaped Montana's past, we can find guidance and wisdom for the future. Consider the resilient spirit of the homesteaders, trappers, and miners; natural resources as an eco-



New Society Director Bruce Whittenberg.

nomie driver; the urbanization of western Montana; the impact of the railroad; and the immigrants who flocked to Montana to pursue their dreams. Consider tribal history and the preservation of native cultures, rural agriculture heritage, the mystique of the Montana landscape and its allure to Montanans and visitors alike, and the authenticity of Montanans grounded in an adventurous and independent spirit.

With a strong connection to our peers and colleagues across this state through outreach efforts and support for the humanities in every corner of Montana, the Montana Historical Society provides leadership in shaping Montana by telling the stories that have made this place great. In doing so, we create friendships that will allow us to expand the scope and influence of our work. As the divide between rural and urban seems to be widening, our shared history and core values can lead us away from division and towards connectedness and shared vision. The power of collaboration knows no bounds if we broaden our definition of collaborators and consider the potential of existing and new relationships. Collaboration, in fact, is the single most important leadership skill for the twenty-first century.

As your new Director, it is an honor to lead such a highly regarded institution with incredibly talented and energetic people. I take very seriously our role as the trustholder of Montana and a steward of Montana's past, and the responsibility of providing the leadership to build relationships among the many who share this passion while telling the stories that provide lessons for shaping a bright and exciting future.

That is a big job and one we can't do without the help of our friends. I hope you take some time to consider our annual appeal on page seven. We thank you for all you have done and all you will continue to do for Montana history and heritage. ⚡

## New Artwork Added to Capitol Collection



"In the Shadow of the Sixth," giclee print by R. Tom Gilleon

Among its other responsibilities, the Montana Historical Society loans artwork to be displayed in designated State Capitol offices.

Thanks to House Speaker Mike Milburn of Cascade, his wife Carleen, and their constituent R. Tom Gilleon—who also happens to be a great artist—a limited edition giclee print of five colorful teepees circled majestically on the plains is now part of that collection.

Called "In the Shadow of the Sixth," Gilleon said he wanted to experiment with the power of "symmetry of design" that holds that five is more pleasing to the eye than six. "I tried breaking the rule by presenting six, as opposed to five, teepees. It turns out that the principle is quite true unless, of course, you place one of the group of five 'In the Shadow of the Sixth.'"

The framed artwork hung in the Speaker's office last session, and Milburn and his wife worked with Gilleon to donate it to the Society's permanent Capitol collection for future Montanans to enjoy. ⚡

### About Us

The *Society Star* is published quarterly by the Montana Historical Society and is a benefit of membership.

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## Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County

There's a new face for the history of Park County with the completion of a major renovation project for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum in Livingston.

Director Paul Shea and his staff and volunteers recently completed a year-long project that not only involved a new energy efficient heating-cooling system for the historic 1910 North Side School which houses the museum, they also inventoried their collection of more than 40,000 objects.

"We took the opportunity of being closed to look at the way the museum was interpreting the history of Park County and how we could improve," he said. "We have put together an interpretive plan

and are now using it to design our exhibits."

Shea has long been a leading figure in museum work in Montana and has been a friend of the Montana Historical Society staff. The improved museum not only includes new exhibits but also draws heavily on its extensive historic photograph collection to tell the story of the county. One of the striking new features is a new Lewis and Clark exhibit that features a four-foot by six-foot fresco of the expedition and three murals of the Lewis and Clark journals. It focuses on the expedition's route from Bozeman to Springdale.

The new heating system allows the museum to be open in the

winter, which was not possible during its first thirty-four years of operation.

"Park County is proud of its heritage, and the support shown during this project is reflected in the exciting new look of our museum," Shea said. "We hope you stop by and see us." ★



The Gateway Museum in Livingston has a new look.

### SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

## Sarah Nucci: Making Living History

When Sarah Nucci was three her mother taught her how to sew, and at age 13 she made her first historically accurate dress for a Civil War living history event that her dad took her to in Virginia where she grew up.

Nucci has brought her skills as a seamstress and historical re-enactor to the Montana Historical Society as the new Curator of History.

"I'm the kind of person who learns by touching and doing. I like to make history come to life for people," she said.

This past Halloween Nucci used her skills and enthusiasm to put together a popular event that featured ghosts from Montana's past dressed in period costumes at several locations in the historic district around the Original Governor's Mansion in Helena. It drew more than 600 people out on a cool night for a hair-raising trip

into history, and raised more than \$5,000. She is planning other living history events for the Society and has opened some new avenues to get people excited about their history.

Nucci, 32, is a 2004 graduate of Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., with a degree in historic preservation and museums.

She has been involved for many years in historic re-enactment



Sarah Nucci sews and lives history.

groups first in Civil War events and later the Revolutionary War, and worked as a re-enactor at Colonial Williamsburg before moving to Montana with her husband. "My family used to take me every summer to the Battle of the Crater re-enactment in Petersburg. I don't jump when I hear the sound of cannons—I grew up to that sound," she said.

Nucci said she sees lots of opportunities in Montana for historic re-enactments. "If people are interested in starting one, I would be glad to walk them through the process," she said.

When you walk in Nucci's footsteps, you better be ready to make and learn some history.

You can check out how she does her work as she reproduces a dress from the Society's collection by following the Society's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MontanaHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/MontanaHistoricalSociety). ★



The design and materials make this storefront a part of "Modern Montana."

*Montana Modern* (cont. from p. 1) expansion in the late 1940s through the 1950s, and many public buildings and storefronts date to that era.

Post-war architectural design rejected traditional and iconic ornamentation. The new look relied instead on abstract ornamentation that comes from contrast of light and shadow, the use of colors, and expressions of materials and texture.

The design exists today on such things as curtain-walled school buildings, futuristic community facilities, avant-garde bank and car dealerships, and sleek high-

rise apartments.

"The first task in preserving is to recognize what the building represents architecturally and historically," Society Historic Architecture Specialist Pete Brown said. "After that it's a matter of respecting the architecture through constant care and maintenance or sensitive replacement of its components."

Those interested in learning more about "Montana Modern" preservation or in placing such properties on the National Register and caring for them can contact Hampton and Brown by calling 406-444-7715. ★

## Montana Historical Society's 38th History Conference Big Success

Engaging speakers, new events, and great participants made the Montana Historical Society's 38th Annual Montana History Conference in Missoula a rousing success.

"This was my first History Conference, and I was amazed at how the staff pulls all of this off and makes it a great experience for those who attend the three-day event," Society Director Bruce Whittenberg said. "If you have never been to one, I hope you make an effort to get to the conference next year that will be in Helena."

The Society has made a strong commitment to partnering with other organizations and groups

to enrich the conference experience. It has worked hard to make sure that all of its presentations, events, and banquets are fun as well as informative for all.

The Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees honored historic preservationist Jim McDonald of Missoula, historian Mary Mercer

of Sidney, and military leader and educator Gen. John Womack of Dillon for their efforts to preserve Montana history and heritage.

The Society was saddened in November with the news that Gen. Womack had died. But his legacy and that of the others will continue. ★



Society Board of Trustees President Steve Lozar (left) and new Society Director Bruce Whittenberg (right) with award winners Gen. John Womack and Jim McDonald (center) and Mary Mercer.



Montanans flocked to the Capitol rotunda to honor the nation and the 911 flag.

## Montana Honors National 911 Flag

Montanans have stitched their way into the history of 911.

The Montana Historical Society was asked by the New York Says Thank You Foundation to organize an event in the Capitol Rotunda allowing Montanans a chance to stitch part of a flag flown in Montana into the restored U.S. Flag that was severely damaged when the Twin Towers came down.

Hundreds of people came to view the giant flag and 234 stood in line to stitch Montana spirit into what will now be a permanent part of the National September 11 Memorial Museum at the site of the former World Trade Center.

Carolyn Deters of the foundation said Montana had the largest participation nationally. "You guys were great!" she said. ★

# Historic Barns Tell All in New Society Book

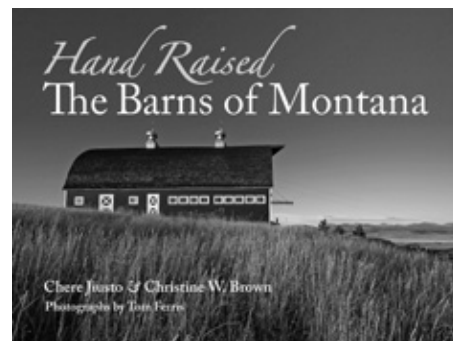
The Society's own photographer Tom Ferris teamed up with Chere Jiusto and Christine Brown of the Montana Preservation Alliance to produce a beautiful new book published by the Montana Historical Society Press, *Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana*.

As historic barns continue to disappear from the Montana landscape, the book is designed to tell their stories and encourage people to save them for posterity.

Ferris traveled the state to photograph more than 140 historic barns in color, documenting their majestic exteriors and the

details of construction, interiors, and use. The barns range from a luxurious horse barn built by copper baron Marcus Daly, to the Kent Dairy round barn remodeled for use as a restaurant, to the Jemison barn in Cascade County still in use as a sheep barn today, to neglected barns that are in danger of collapse.

The beautiful coffee table-style book has more than five hundred color images and is available at local bookstores or can be ordered directly from the Society by calling 1-800-243-9900 or online at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org). It sells for \$39.95 in hardcover. ⚡



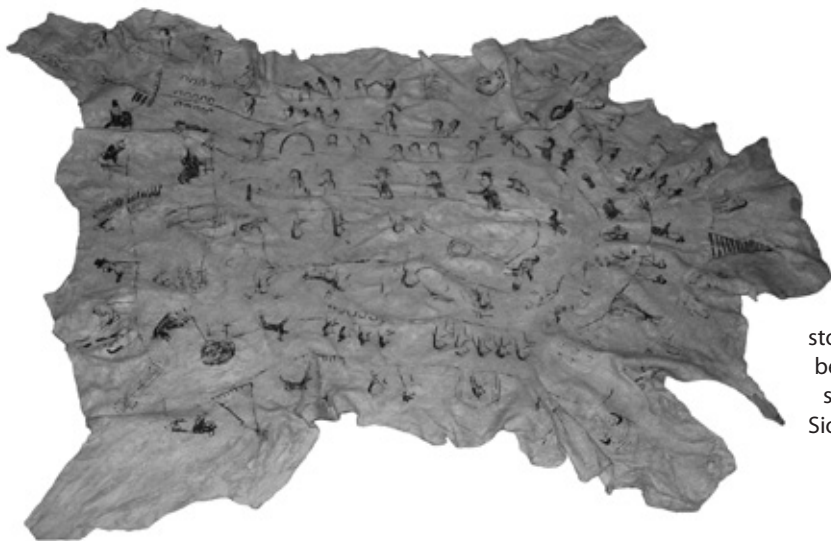
## Research Center Echoes Veterans Words

The Society Research Center is Montana's voice from the past.

To honor veterans, the staff put together a program on veterans' letters dating from the Civil War through today's wars using its incredible collection. The program is very moving and has drawn rave reviews from all who saw it.

If you missed the program it will be available within a month on the Montana History Wiki, <http://montanahistorywiki.pbworks.com>.

You can log on to [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) to learn more about the Society's great archives. ⚡



The art of storytelling can be beautiful as shown by this Sioux history in the exhibit.

## New Museum Exhibits Help You Find Your Way

There are different ways to find your way through life, and the Montana Historical Society Museum has two new exhibits on two of those paths.

*The Art of Story Telling: Plains Indian Perspectives*, and *Mapping Montana: Two Centuries of Cartography* both draw heavily on Society collection to present striking visual as well as interpretive displays.

For countless years Plains Indians have chronicled their histories in graphic pictorial styles. Powerful images carved in or painted on rock marked histori-

cal events and visions. Narrative scenes painted on buffalo robes and tipis told of personal exploits and experiences.

*The Art of Story Telling* draws the visitor in to explore many beautiful and powerful examples of pictographic art. It also challenges viewers to think about what the images mean—some are clear and concise, but others are open to interpretation, and the original meaning remains enigmatic.

*Mapping Montana* is the museum's first display of historic maps from its collection of over

10,000 since 1965 when the Society marked the centennial of the creation of Montana's first map drawn by preeminent cartographer and surveyor Walter de Lacy.

This collaboration between the Society Research Center and Museum tells the story of the state's past from early exploration to Indian conflicts to the arrival of the railroad and the development of the modern state. The maps are beautiful artworks as well as technical wonders.

Both exhibits will be on display through summer 2012. ⚡

## Weddings Make Montana History in New Book

Brides galore gathered on the front lawn of the Historical Society to officially launch the Society Press's new book, *I Do: A Cultural History of Montana Weddings*.

Society historical specialist Martha Kohl wrote the book after several years of research including oral histories with many of the people who came from across the state for the event. The book focuses on the lives of ordinary Montanans, examining how weddings have been celebrated over time and what that tells us about



Society staffer Caitlan Maxwell applies her "war paint" as she gets ready to celebrate the Society Press' new *I Do* book. Fellow Society archivists Rachel Lilley (left) and Loreto Pinochet will have to wait for the next book!

the social, political, and economic trends that shaped our history.

Judging from the large turnout for the event, interest in weddings is still strong in today's generation. The book captures the richness of

Montana's vibrant, multicultural past and provides fascinating insights into one of American's most enduring traditions and rites of passage.

Many guests wore historic wedding attire, and prizes were awarded in several categories.

*I Do* is available at book stores across the state or can be ordered directly from the Society with a discount to members by calling 1-800-243-9900, or online at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org). The 212-page book with more than 70 historic photos sells for \$34.95 in hard cover or \$22.95 in paperback and makes a great gift for newlyweds or anyone with a "romantic" feel for Montana history. ⚡

## Society Hosts Major Museum Convention

The ten-state Mountain-Plains Museums Association that stretches from Texas to Montana gave an official "Hurrah" to the Montana Historical Society and its partners for hosting and organizing a major five-day conference in Helena in October.

"We had concerns that Helena was too far north for most of our members to get to or the economy too far south for folks to find funds to attend," said MPMA executive director Monta Lee Dakin.

But 329 members were drawn to Big Sky Country for the con-

ference, which fell just short of the 353 that attended last year in Rapid City. It also exceeded the 283 that attended the last conference held this far north in Fargo in 2007, she said.

"So a big 'Hurrah' to all of you who worked tirelessly to make Helena the successful conference that it was," she said.

The conference involved many sessions, workshops, tours, an exhibitor's hall, and other events in the area surrounding Helena. Many attendees spent time in other parts of Montana after the conference.

She praised the entire Society staff—especially membership coordinator Rebecca Baumann who coordinated local arrangements. Her attention to detail and demand for an event that would make Montana proud were a major reason for the success of the conference.

"I'm useless when it comes to that sort of thing, which is why I was happy to have Rebecca there to make it all happen," Dakin said. "And boy, did she ever!" ⚡



The staff of the Montana Historical Society pitched in to make a great Mountain Plains Museums Association conference—the best they've ever had up north!

### *Sculpture (cont. from p. 1)*

They not only found the young man's body but also the "Chief Joseph" sculpture that had been in the river for a year.

Hansen later saw the piece in a pre-auction exhibit at the Great Falls Russell Art Show. "I only had \$9 in my pocket, but I knew that it had to be mine," she said. Paying in monthly installments, Hansen finally acquired it. "It remains one of Stockton's most memorable creations," she said.

Hansen donated the statue to the Montana Historical Society this year.

Stockton died in 2002 after a long and illustrious career. His work is in Montana museums and private collections across the state and nation. His numerous awards include the Governor's Award for the Arts.

Over her career, Hansen worked for the *Billings Gazette*, the *Helena Independent Record*, the *Madisonian*, the *Great Falls Tribune*, the *Lewistown News-Argus*, the *Montana Standard* and the *Dillon Tribune*. She now lives in Missoula. ⚡

## *Show your Montana history spirit with a year-end gift!*

Dear Friends,

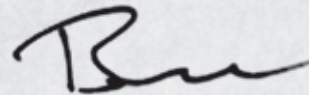
As we look back on an outstanding year for the Montana Historical Society, we are awed by what we have been able to accomplish through the help of our members, supporters and partners. Thank you for all of the moral and monetary support you have provided! At year-end we ask that you consider making a special donation to the Montana Historical Society to ensure a bright future for Montana history.

Both the quality and quantity of history programming during 2011 have been awesome! There was overwhelming response to *Land of Many Stories: the People & Histories of Glacier National Park* exhibit and the *Native Words, Native Warriors* traveling exhibit. Two new wonderful Montana Historical Society Press books were published, *I Do: A Cultural History of Montana Weddings* and *Hand-Raised: the Barns of Montana*, which have generated great reviews. Our free Thursday evening and Second Saturday programs drew large crowds of folks with a passion for history. Collaborations and communications with teachers have never been stronger, evidenced by the popularity of our educator's blog that promotes sharing resources for teaching Montana history. The Society is connected to historic preservation efforts all over the state working with local advocates to save our tangible past. And we are building our digital resources and social network so information on our history can more easily be shared.

The Montana Historical Society is the trust holder of Montana—a steward of Montana's past, providing the leadership to build relationships among the many who share this passion, while telling the stories that provide lessons for shaping a bright and exciting future.

Your year-end contribution to the Society will enable us to build relationships with others who share your spirit and your love for Montana's rich history.

Thanks so much,



Bruce Whittenberg, Director

### *Help ensure a bright future for Montana history!*

Send your gift today with the enclosed donation form to:  
Montana Historical Society  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena MT 59620-1201

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# Montana Historical Society

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The official launch of the Montana Historical Society Press' new book *I Do: A Cultural History of Montana Weddings* by Martha Kohl brought new and old brides by the dozens to the Society for a gala party complete with prizes for costumes. Older brides—some of them still blushing in their old dresses—younger brides and brides to be, and guys who dressed up to make it all official had a great party and learned that weddings tell us a lot about Montana's history and culture. Read more about it on page 6.

*We appreciate our members!*