

A Taste of the Past: Gathering Montana's Food Heritage in Eastern Montana

On Saturday, September 15, a team of historians and students from the Montana Historical Society and the Center for Western Lands and Peoples at Montana State University in Bozeman assembled at the Pella Lutheran Church in Sidney for "A Taste of the Past: Gathering Montana's Food Heritage." Residents of Richland and Roosevelt Counties were invited to bring traditional recipes, community cookbooks, historical photographs, and documents of food-related events, menus, records of home demonstration clubs, and artifacts related to food preparation and preservation to the event to share with the historians and students. While the historians collected the stories, the students scanned and gathered information about the documents and artifacts that were brought in. Throughout the day, MHS and CWLP staff presented programs on Montana food history and preservation techniques for cherished artifacts, cookbooks, and photographs.

Area residents brought in items ranging from cookbooks and recipe cards to bread rising bowls and krumkake bakers. A 1920s-era Sidney Ladies Guild Cookbook contained ads from local businesses as well as Ladies Guild members' favorite recipes. A set of three krumkake bakers, dating from the early twentieth century to the pres-

ent, showed continuity in area food traditions. A group of items including a large wooden bowl, paddle, and mold illustrated how butter was packed into one-pound blocks for use. These and the many other recipes and artifacts that were documented speak broadly to the history of the region's local food customs.

The digital images and information collected at the event will be used to study Montana's food heritage and history in many ways. The images and accompanying stories will eventually be made available on the Montana Memory Project (<http://www.mtmemory.org>), where they can be freely used by the public for research and enjoyment. Additionally, the historians involved in the project will return to Sidney in the spring of 2019 for a public program based on the stories and information gathered at the event.

This project was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as through the partnership of many institutions: the Center for Western Lands and Peoples at Montana State University, the Sidney-Richland County Public Library, the James E. Shanley Tribal Library at Fort Peck Community College, the MonDak Heritage Center, the Montana State University Library, and the Montana Memory Project. ⚙



Debra Rasmussen, of Culbertson, brought in a wooden bowl, paddle, and butter mold—all made about 1900—that originally belonged to Mary Folvag.



MHS reference historian and "foodie" Zoe Ann Stoltz shares her extensive knowledge of traditional Montana foodways and resources from MHS's Research Center with attendees at the Taste of the Past gathering in Sidney.



MSU students Mykaela Edwards and Cheyanne Hafer gather information about, and scan, a 1920s-era Sidney cookbook brought to the event by Margaret Bradley.

Less with Less but Still Going Full Blast

"The reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast is that we simply can't believe that full support won't be forthcoming."

—K. Ross Toole, 1954

As I write this column, we're packing up and heading to Billings for the 45th Annual Montana History Conference. By the time you read this, well over 200 of you will have attended the history conference. It remains the "signature event" of the Montana Historical Society. It's an enormous effort, led by Kirby Lambert, Outreach and Interpretation manager, and involving virtually everyone on our staff. The history conference requires us to go "full blast."

As you have read in this column previously, the momentum at the Montana Historical Society was significantly slowed by the funding reductions of the 2017 legislature. Staffing was reduced, programs eliminated, and services curtailed. We are doing less with less. But we're doing it very, very well. You would think that this "belt-tightening" would send our staff into a funk. And honestly, there was a difficult period when we were revising plans and sharing a message that we were not accustomed to sharing. But the work of the Montana Historical Society goes on, and that brings me back to the 45th Annual Montana History Conference. As MHS's signature event, and one that is highly anticipated each year, there is no room for disappointment or a lapse in energy and quality. The 2018 conference will be another feather in the cap of the Montana Historical Society. Along with many accomplishments, the conference also helps us rejuvenate our passion for the work and why it's so important.

A few other examples of the work worth celebrating this past year:

- *Montana The Magazine of Western History* won prestigious awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Western Writers of America, and the Mountain-Plains Museums Association.
- Montana's Museum was recognized by the American Association of State and Local History for the stellar exhibit, *Times of Trouble, Times of Change: Montana and the Great War*.
- The State Historic Preservation Office led another award-winning project, *Montana's African American Heritage Resources* website.
- The MHS Press released a wonderful book by Dale Martin, *Ties, Rails, and Telegraph Wires: Railroads and Communities in Montana and the West*.
- The MHS Research Center received funding to continue the newspaper digitization project and additional support for the Craney Film and Media Archives. Over forty historic films from the archives have been preserved and digitized to be enjoyed online.
- The Research Center acquired a wonderful archival collection from one of Montana's great home-grown companies, Kampgrounds of America (KOA), a gift from the company.
- Montana's Museum opened a beautiful exhibit from its fine art collection, *Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery*.
- The Original Governor's Mansion featured *Doing Our Bit: Montana's Home Front During the Great War*, curated by the museum and Outreach & Interpretation teams.
- We improved access to the lobby and comfort in the galleries with some new or redesigned furniture and fixtures.

And the list goes on. I dare say, I am at great risk of leaving important work unmentioned here, but I think you get the point. Less with less does NOT mean less quality or commitment at the Montana Historical

Society. When it comes to producing the Montana History Conference—and all of the other great work—the Montana Historical Society continues to go "full blast." ★

Research Center Acquires the KRTV Audiovisual Collection



Actor Clint Eastwood was one of many national celebrities interviewed by KRTV news anchor Norma Ashby for her long-running program, *Today in Montana*.

The Montana Historical Society is excited to announce the recent acquisition of the KRTV audiovisual collection, comprising 847 individual films, videocassettes, and audio reels dating from 1968 to 1996. Throughout its history, KRTV was affiliated with several networks, but now, in its sixtieth year of operation, KRTV broadcasts on channel 3 as a CBS affiliate. The most prominent regional figure in the KRTV collection is broadcaster Norma Ashby, who began her career with the station in 1962 and soon became the co-host and producer of the award-winning, live program *Today in Montana*, on which she interviewed many nationally known musicians, celebrities, and political figures.

The processing of a large moving image collection like KRTV's is a resource-intensive undertaking. Thanks to generous support from the Greater Montana Foundation, MHS has recently begun preservation work on these wonderful regional materials, which will provide researchers with a window into local, national, and international news stories. ★

New Scheuerle Exhibit Wows Opening Crowd

Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery—which opened in the Montana Historical Society’s Lobby Gallery on September 6—features the remarkable work of portraitist Joseph G. Scheuerle (1873–1948). Helena’s Magpie Drummers and Dancers provided entertainment for this special opening, which was generously sponsored by the Montana Bankers Association Education Foundation.

Born in Austria to German parents, when he was ten years old Scheuerle moved with his family to Ohio, where he eventually studied at the Cincinnati Art Academy. Beginning in 1909, he made many visits to Indian reservations in Montana and across the West, where he produced exceptional portraits that were, in his own words, “all finished and done honestly and carefully from life and on the spot.” Throughout his career he created more than two hundred portraits, and established close friendships and rapport with his models.

In addition to the carefully fin-



Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery is made possible through generous donations of the artist’s work from Joe Scheuerle’s grandson Bill Grierson and his wife Pat, and from collectors Alfred K. Nippert Jr. and Kathye H. Nippert (pictured here), who traveled from Ohio to attend the opening.

ished portraits, Scheuerle often provided fascinating, whimsical sketches and commentary on the back of the canvases. Today, these provide invaluable insight into the lives of the people he was painting. Through the master craftsmanship of MHS preparator Todd Saarinen, many of the works in the exhibit are displayed so that both sides can be seen.

Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery is scheduled to run through December 2019. ★

Award-Winning Design

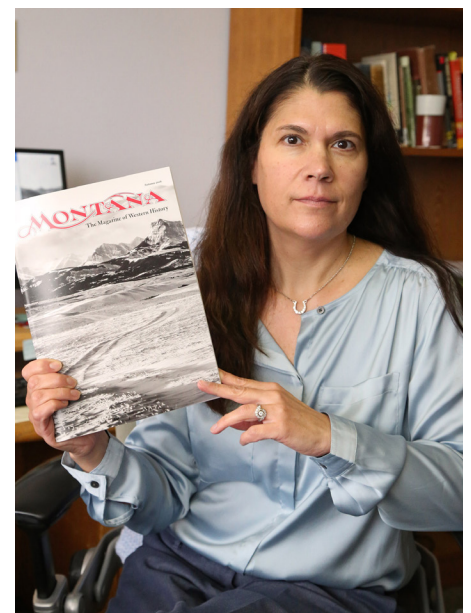
Montana The Magazine of Western History was awarded first place for design by the Mountain-Plains Museums Association during the annual MPMA conference in Billings in September. The full-color Spring 2018 issue of *Montana* garnered this award, and featured historical and contemporary photographs, original and historical maps, sketches, hide paintings, ledger art, and an abundance of nineteenth-century artwork to illustrate articles on the Baker Massacre, artist Albert Bierstadt, and trader John Owen. Peter Hassrick and Sylvia Huber of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, graciously secured permissions to publish the Bierstadt images. Gerry Daumiller and author Sally Thompson designed the maps to re-create John Owen’s 1858 route. MHS associate editor Laura Ferguson is the magazine’s photo editor, and Diane Glebe Hall is the graphic designer. The MPMA design award was one of four awards presented to *Montana The Magazine of Western History* this year. ★

MHS Welcomes New Editor

The Montana Historical Society is pleased to introduce its new editor and publications program manager, Dr. Diana Di Stefano. A native of California and graduate of the University of Montana (MA, 2000), Di Stefano most recently served as an associate professor of history at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. Other teaching experience includes colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, Washington, and Colorado, and since 2016, she has served on the editorial board of the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. In addition to publishing numerous articles in a wide array of historical publications (including *Montana The Magazine of Western History*), she has authored one book, *Encounters*

in Avalanche Country: A History of Survival in the Mountain West, and is currently at work on a second, *Cannibalism in the Nineteenth-Century American Imagination*.

Di Stefano is “thrilled to be back in Montana and to be focusing on the publishing side of things. It’s a real privilege,” she says, “to get to work with others as enthusiastic about Western history as I am!” In turn, according to MHS director Bruce Whittenberg, “MHS is very pleased to have attracted Diana to our publications program. She was selected after a rigorous national search and is the right person to lead the MHS Press and *Montana The Magazine of Western History* into its eighth decade.” ★



MHS’s new editor and publications program manager, Diana Di Stefano.

MHS Receives Two National Leadership in History Awards

Every year the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) confers awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. These Leadership in History Awards are the most prestigious recognition given for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history, and the winners represent the best in the field. Two of the forty-four national awards given for 2018 were presented to the Montana Historical Society. *Big Game, Big Stories: Montana's Hunting Heritage* was recognized in the exhibition category, and the *Montana's African American Heritage Resources* website was honored in the special projects category.

Big Game, Big Stories was a temporary exhibit (July 14, 2016–November 25, 2017) that examined the history of hunting in the Treasure State from the first peoples' nomadic, bison-dependent lifestyles to market hunters' decimation of wildlife and, subsequently, twenti-

eth-century hunters' conservation efforts. The exhibit explored how past hunting practices shaped the land and wildlife that Montanans and tourists enjoy today. Artifacts, art, photographs, archival documents, and oral histories showcased a wide array of individuals and communities. Additionally, a custom-built, "hands-on" hunter's cabin allowed visitors to step into Montana's hunting past.

Montana's African American Heritage Resources (<https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/AfricanAmericans>) is a web-based tool that provides a gateway to exploring MHS's rich collections that document this understudied aspect of our state's history. Although African Americans never totaled more than one percent of the state's population, they have existed in the place that would become Montana since the earliest days of non-Indian presence and contributed greatly to Montana's culture, economy, and religious life. We invite you to explore the



Missoula historian Delia Hagen and MHS community preservation coordinator Kate Hampton accepted MHS's Leadership in History Awards at the AASLH annual conference in Kansas City. Hagen and Hampton masterminded MHS's Montana African American Heritages Resources project.

timeline, story maps, property inventories, lesson plans, census information, essays, first-person narratives, photographs, manuscript collections, and artifacts that help tell the story of Montana's African American heritage. 🌟



This cabin, which was built for the *Big Game, Big Stories* exhibit, has since been installed as an interactive component in the Montana Homeland Gallery, so you still have a chance to come and enjoy it.

Made in Montana

Billings rolled out the red carpet for attendees at the forty-fifth Montana History Conference, who gathered in the Magic City September 27–29 to study *Rimrocks, Rivers, and Rolling Plains: History from the Yellowstone Valley*. Over 230 people enjoyed the conference’s many offerings including Thursday’s now-traditional Made in Montana tour.

The first Made in Montana tour was organized by MHS’s then library manager, Brian Shovers. Although he has since retired,

Shovers continues to organize this pre-conference outing which, for many, is one of the highlights of the Society’s annual gathering. According to Kirby Lambert, who oversees the history conference, Shovers is a “mastermind at finding the best each locale has to offer, from the obvious to the little known.” This year’s tour, which focused on agriculture in the Yellowstone Valley, was no exception.

Specifically, the tour featured the Western Sugar Cooperative refin-

ery, Red Oxx Manufacturing, the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture, Montana State University’s Southern Agricultural Research Center, the MillerCoors elevator, and the Last Chance Pub & Cider Mill. As important as the venues was having the perfect guide. That role was expertly filled by Taylor Brown, owner of Billings’ Northern Broadcasting System, who is widely recognized as a leader in the field of agricultural broadcasting. ★



Armed with a portable sound system, agricultural expert Taylor Brown was well prepared to guide enthusiastic conference-goers through the Yellowstone Valley’s agrarian past.



Mariah, one of Red Oxx Manufacturing’s twenty-seven employees, assembles a “Tres Hombres” bag. Founded in 1986 as makers of weight training accessories, today Red Oxx focuses its efforts on the manufacture of luggage and sporting gear.



Tour participants examine a large pile of sugar beets waiting to be processed at Billings’ Western Sugar Cooperative refinery which has been in operation since 1910.



Former MHS library manager and tour organizer Brian Shovers (right) visits with head cider maker Travis Charboneau (left) and Rocky Erickson at the Last Chance Pub & Cider Mill. The newest business included on the tour, the Last Chance Pub & Cider Mill opened in 2016 in a restored warehouse in Billings’ historic railroad district.



The “Ruth Dredger” is just one of the many fascinating exhibits awaiting visitors at the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture.

A Stitch in Time

When looking at historical photographs, do the elaborate clothing and household decorations catch your eye? Are you curious about the luxurious fabrics and ornamentation hinted at in the black-and-white photos? If so, be sure to visit Montana's Museum's new exhibit, *Through the Eye of the Needle: A Detailed View of Historic Textiles*.

The exhibit offers an up-close view of clothing and textiles in the Montana Historical Society Museum Collection. Bodices, boots, embroidered table covers, and more are accompanied by large photographs of the embellishments on each piece. The photographs provide magnified views of details that combine to create a striking overall appearance—or disappear into seemingly ordinary objects.

Through the Eye of the Needle will be on display in the museum's Montana Moments Gallery through summer 2019. 🌟



MHS's new exhibit, *Through the Eye of the Needle*, provides an up-close examination of ornamental needlework on historic garments, like this pair of women's leather boots adorned with steel beads and decorative stitching, ca. 1905.

Daphne Bugbee Jones: Montana Modernist



Bugbee Jones designed eight houses that were built in Missoula, including the Kimble-Wangen house (pictured here), which was constructed in 1976.

In 2015, architect-photographer Terry W. Greene volunteered his services to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), photographing the architecture of the late Daphne Bugbee Jones. This coincided with University of Montana art history professor Rafael Chacón's then-recent article on Bug-

bee Jones in *Montana The Magazine of Western History* (Summer 2015). Using Greene's photography and Chacón's knowledge of the subject, SHPO's architecture specialist Pete Brown has produced a new, fifteen-minute documentary on Bugbee Jones utilizing the resources of the Society's Craney studio.

Hollenbach Receives Governor's Award for Excellence

On September 10, Natasha Hollenbach, MHS digital projects librarian, received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance. For the past four years, Hollenbach has endeavored to expand online access to digitized historical materials. Over the past year she has overseen the growth of Montana's online repository of historic newspapers, which now hosts more than half a million pages. She has also led the Society in implementing an online exhibit platform, the Digital Vault, and assisted with two major exhibits. In addition to making materials accessible, Natasha often presents at teacher workshops on how to effectively use these and other digital resources. Her commitment to making Montana's history easily accessible online makes Natasha an invaluable member of the MHS team. 🌟



Digital projects librarian Natasha Hollenbach poses with the plaque she received from Governor Steve Bullock in recognition of her outstanding service to MHS and the people of Montana.

Harvard-educated Bugbee Jones's Montana career ran from 1959 to 1981. She and her husband, professor Henry Bugbee, moved to Missoula in 1958, where he taught philosophy at the University of Montana. In addition to being a pioneering architect, Bugbee Jones was a mother, delegate to the 1972 Constitutional Convention, state legislator, and advocate for civil rights, the outdoors, and the arts.

Daphne Bugbee Jones: Montana

Bugbee Jones (cont. on p. 7)

Bugbee Jones (cont. from p. 6)

Modernist is the latest and most far-reaching of SHPO's efforts to document and interpret modernism in the Treasure State. The documentary presents modernism's forward-looking idealism as exemplified in Bugbee Jones's civic life and home designs. To understand Bugbee Jones's motivations is to better understand modernism. The documentary is on MHS's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv-Wi1Wwby8>. 🌟



Bugbee Jones, ca. 1970.

Mark Your Calendar

The Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame was created in 2014 to honor individuals—both living and deceased—who have made lasting contributions to the restoration and conservation of Montana's wildlife and wild places. Original Hall of Fame inductees included such notables as Charlie Russell, Cecil Garland, and Bud Moore. MHS reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz assists with historical research for the nomination process, and the MHS Research Center serves as the official archives for all inductees honored in the Hall of Fame. The next



induction and awards ceremony will be held Saturday, December 1, 2018, at the Delta Colonial Hotel in Helena. For more information visit www.montanaoutdoorhalloffame.org. 🌟

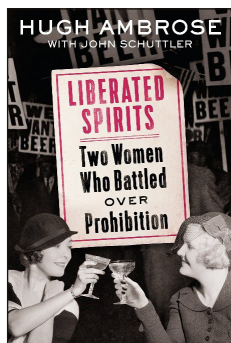
New Titles from the Museum Store

BY RODRIC COSLET, MUSEUM STORE MANAGER

In the MHS Museum Store, we always look forward to the changing of the seasons and the release of new fall titles. The Museum Store staff recommends these three new, recently released books:

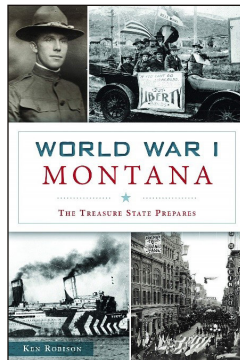
Liberated Spirits: Two Women Who Battled Over Prohibition, by Hugh Ambrose with John Schuttler. Hardcover, 368 pages, \$28.00.

This new book by the late historian Hugh Ambrose describes how the fight both to pass and later to repeal Prohibition was primarily driven by women, as exemplified by two remarkable women in particular: wealthy socialite Pauline Sabin (anti-Prohibition) and U.S. assistant attorney general Mabel Willebrandt (a zealous enforcer).



World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares, by Ken Robison. Softcover, 271 pages, \$23.99.

Montana's cowboys, miners, foresters, farmers, and nurses entered World War I in April 1917. Hundreds responded to the call, including local women and minorities, from the nation's first congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin, to young women serving as combat nurses on the front lines. Learn what role Charlie Russell played in the war and how Montanans mobilized, trained, and deployed.



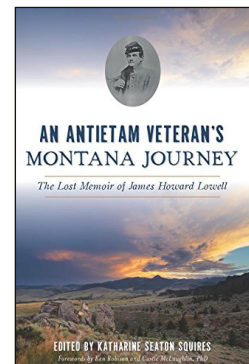
An Antietam Veteran's Montana Journey: The Lost Memoir of James Howard Lowell, edited by Katharine Seaton Squires, with forewords by Ken Robison and Castle McLaughlin. Softcover, 260 pages, \$23.99.

About Us

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

- ✔ MHS Director: Bruce Whittenberg
 - ✔ Membership Services: Jodel Fohn (406) 444-2890
 - ✔ Editor: Kirby Lambert
- montanahistoricalsociety.org

In this recently unearthed memoir, Civil War veteran James Howard Lowell offers a firsthand account of his brutal journey west to Montana Territory in the 1860s. Lowell's great-great-granddaughter edits this story populated with colorful characters, narrow escapes, and important historic events. It also features Lowell's letters to his sweetheart and Civil War correspondence.



These titles and more can be ordered online at <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org>, or by calling the Museum Store directly at 1-800-243-9900 or 406-444-2890. 🌟

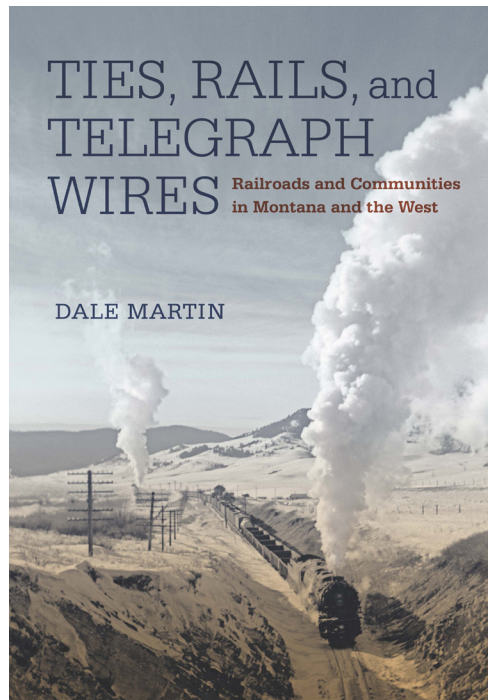
Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

225 N. Roberts, P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201

Inside

- ❖ A Taste of the Past 1
- ❖ Director's Corner 2
- ❖ KRTV Collection 2
- ❖ Scheuerle Exhibit 3
- ❖ Publications News 3
- ❖ Leadership Awards 4
- ❖ History Conference 5
- ❖ Hollenbach Honored 6
- ❖ Textile Arts 6
- ❖ Montana Modernist 6
- ❖ Hall of Fame 7
- ❖ New Titles 7



Hot off the Press! MHS's newest book, *Ties, Rails, and Telegraph Wires: Railroads and Communities in Montana and the West*, is now available. The book, by Bozeman historian Dale Martin, explores the ways in which railroads shaped and sustained the human landscape and economy of the West.

We are thankful for our members!