

## Society Unlocking Mysteries of Paleoindians

It isn't often that you can become part of answering some of the ancient mysteries of the past.

The Montana Historical Society is teaming with archaeologist Ruthann Knudson, head of Knudson Associates of Great Falls, to gather information on Montana Paleoindian artifacts.

"There has been minimal systematic survey done in Montana. Until we can collect Montana Paleoindian information, most of which is in the heads and collections of avocational or amateur archaeologists, we won't know what is out on the landscape and in collections," Knudson said.

Society and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth said that private collections could hold important clues to the past.

"Many, if not most old sites or artifacts, are found by accident—by workers or landowners doing

some other kind of work, often in an erosional setting where buried artifacts are unintentionally uncovered," Wilmoth said. "In many of those situations no one ever hears about something that could be very important. This is a chance to change that."

The Montana survey will become part of the national Paleoindian Database of the Americas. Similar surveys are underway across the United States, Canada and in Mexico to add to the database.

"When primary archaeological data are compiled, and available for inspection, they can tell us new and previously unrecognized things about the past," Knudson said.

The artifacts and private land sites reported in the survey will remain the property of those who own them, Wilmoth said.

There is a misconception among



Tools like these found at the Montana Anzick site could hold important clues to the past.

some that reporting significant archaeological finds on private land will result in governmental interference with private property rights, Wilmoth said. That is not true.

However, he urged those who make new discoveries to contact archaeologists to help them preserve the discoveries and to gather more information by scientific and perhaps careful excavation.

*Paleoindians* (cont. on p. 4)

## History Blasted to Bits

It was well before dawn, and the rain was coming down in a sad drizzle.

Through the windshield wipers the dormant and doomed Asarco smelter stacks stood over East Helena casting a shadow back into the community's and Montana's past.

Officials directed the hundreds of people, who were gathering to watch the stacks be demolished, to safe vantage points. They huddled

*Blasted* (cont. on p. 4)



The Asarco smelter stacks in East Helena crashing down into history.

# Ramblin' with Richard



DIRECTOR SIMS FINDS  
MONTANA SWEET AS HONEY.....

Traveling around Montana is a honey of a deal. In my case, literally. I have fallen into the habit of collecting jars of honey from the local beekeepers, and there are many in Big Sky country. All motorists notice the stacks of multicolored or plain white hive boxes, placed at the edge of hay and wheat fields, hosting the bee colonies that provide a pollination service while building their own food supply. A map of apiary distribution, dated 2004 from the Montana Department of Agriculture, shows a state dotted with many more hive sites (5,000 or so) than with towns. The surplus bee food, honey, finds its way to grocery store shelves, to recipe books, and to the kitchen table. When I am in Montana towns for meetings, or just to take a break from the road, I seek out the large superstores and the small corner stores to purchase a local variety of evaporated nectar.

Commercial honey production, and the large-scale agriculture pollination that goes with it, is an important industry in Montana, one of the top ten producers of clover honey among the fifty states. In 2008, Montana apiarists managed 134 colonies of bees that yielded over 9 million pounds of honey at a value of nearly \$13 million. There are about 35 commercial beekeepers in Montana, and about 30 hobby beekeepers. Cottage-industry honey selections are found at the farmers' markets.

The world of honey varieties is like the world of wine, with a subtle or not so subtle range of tastes and colors. In Eureka I found one of the lightest, almost dainty clover honeys, a mere

whisper of sweetness, but sweet indeed. At the Saturday market in Billings, a friend bought me a small jug of buckwheat honey from Laurel, a biting flavor and an almost-molasses color that is the other end of the spectrum. An inventory of my kitchen shelf reveals a sweet clover honey from Harlowton, a specialty honey from the sainfoin blossom in Twin Bridges, a heavy-bodied honey from a hardware store in Winifred, raw honey from Lewistown, a uniquely bottled hobby honey from a festival in Stevensville, a wildflower honey from Dupuyer, and other local, mostly clover honeys from Pony, Arlee, Augusta, Ophiem, and Victor. I even have a jar of honey from our sister-state in Japan, given to me by my son who teaches in Kumamoto.

Driving under the wind turbines of the Judith Basin one morning, returning from a business trip with yet more jars, I realized why I have the honey habit. Maybe, I told myself, it is because I want to capture in a jar all that is golden about Montana, the wheat fields at harvest, the hay bales when the green goes, the cottonwoods in autumn, and the sunsets everywhere. So here's to bees and beekeepers, an overflowing spoonful, straight up! ★

## About Us

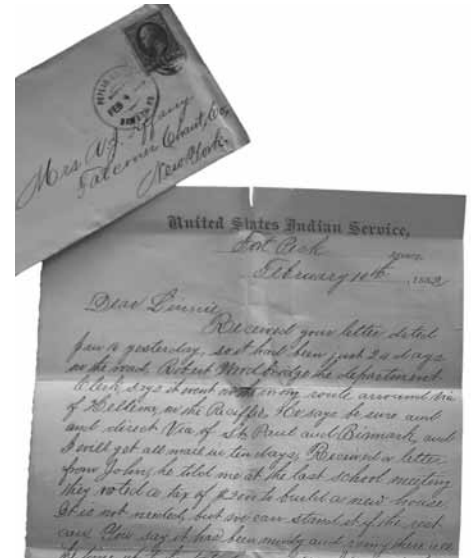
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- ✔ *Society Director:* Richard Sims
- ✔ *Membership Coordinator:* Kimberly Ramuta  
406-444-2918
- ✔ *Editor:* Tom Cook  
406-444-1645

[www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org)

# Something New, Something Old

TREASURES FROM THE  
SOCIETY COLLECTIONS.....



## FORT PECK RESERVATION LETTERS

More than 80 letters written in the 1880s detailing life on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation during what were known as “the starving years” have been added to the Society Research Center collections.

“They provide a first-hand look into life on the Fort Peck Reservation in the early 1880s and add to our understanding of the difficulties faced by Montana’s Native American population during a significant and transitional era in our history,” Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg said.

Most were written by Albert Tiffany, who was the brother-in-law of Maj. Nathan Porter, who was Indian Agency Superintendent at the reservation from 1879-1883. The letters, including some written by Porter’s wife Louisa, provide great detail of daily life on the reservation, the shortage of food and medical supplies, and the severe winters that led to wide-spread starvation on the reservation. ★

## Great Museums and Galleries

### CASCADE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

While on the road to Montana's great museums and galleries you almost always come upon a real surprise.

The Cascade Historical Museum in Cascade had some great artifacts that make it well worth the trip. The surprise, at least to this writer, was that the first home of the newly married Charlie and Nancy Russell is just across the street.

"We call it the honeymoon home, because they lived there for a year before they moved into Great Falls," Museum Manager Gerri Sanchez said.

Ranching and farming equipment are featured in the museum, but one of Sanchez' favorite things is a completely wooden, hand-powered washing machine in such



Gerri Sanchez turns the wheels at the Cascade Historical Museum.

good condition that you can still clearly read the warning "Fill with cold water for ten hours before using the first time."

"I really like the good old kitchen and home items because it shows how hard women worked to keep the family going," she said.

An ornate and plush 1890s baby carriage donated by the Okerlund family testifies to how much early Montanan's liked to show off their newborns on strolls around the community.

Testifying to other aspects of community life, near the door of the museum is a beautiful wooden and brightly painted roulette wheel that still works and is used occasionally for charity gaming nights.

"Believe it or not, this was salvaged from the dump when gambling was outlawed in Montana," she said.

The museum is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. To arrange weekend visits or to see the inside of the Russell honeymoon home, call 406-468-9883. ★

## Society Star Profile

### PETE BROWN: BUILDING ON THE PAST

Pete Brown is teaching Montana to look at old buildings in new ways.

"My job is to help people come up with ways to make their historic buildings and structures functional to meet modern needs while maintaining their historic character," he said.

As historic architecture specialist for the Society's State Historic Preservation Office for the past seven years, Brown has helped preserve historic buildings in Montana communities, national parks, farms and ranches, and other places in every corner of the state.

He received his under graduate degree at LaSalle University and his Masters in Historic Preservation at Ball State.

"I came to this job with an interest in the environment as well as my interest in history," he said.

Ask him about windows for example, and you open up a conversation that ranges from the science of insulation to the many ways you can modernize historic windows to meet the energy demands of today.

"There are many ways to do energy retrofits. I encourage people to retain and repair, not just thinking of replacement as the only option," he said.

On his own time, Brown is an avid skateboarder who encourages those who share his love of the sport to use public skateboarding facilities and not public areas where they can do damage to buildings or other structures such as stairs and rails.

His latest efforts are to coordinate a survey of buildings from 1945 to 1960 in Montana. "Those



Pete Brown sees history in buildings.

buildings are now eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. We are used to seeing these more modern buildings and not thinking much of them. But they are now part of our history."

Brown is literally building on the past. ★

*Paleoindians (cont. from p. 1)*

“Usually the information associated with the artifacts at the find spot is lost because even if the collector owns the land and has legal title to the artifact, the owner may not know what to do to preserve any of that information,” Wilmoth said.



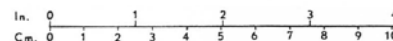
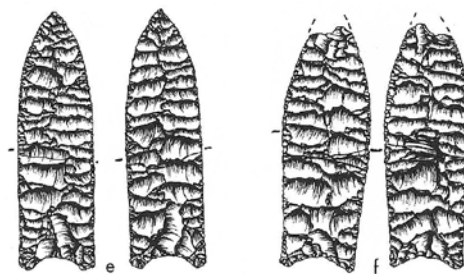
Society and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth at work in the field.

Knudson said those with projectile points, other artifacts or knowledge of sites, whether they are professional or amateur archaeologists, are urged to take part in the survey.

The survey form can be printed out by going on-line to [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo/forms.asp](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo/forms.asp).

She said the most critical information to provide are digital color photographs of the front and back of the artifact and a side view if possible taken beside a ruler or coin to identify size.

“These surveys will, I think, give people a place where some of the importance of their find is recognized and recorded,” Wilmoth said. “The information at a general level will be available nationally and even internationally to researchers



These are some of the kinds of points and tools Wilmoth is looking for.

interested in late Pleistocene-early Holocene archaeology.”

Knudson said that people with questions about the survey or their artifacts or sites can contact her at 406-216-2676 or at [paleoknute@3rivers.net](mailto:paleoknute@3rivers.net).

No information will be distributed without the permission of those providing it, she said. ★

*Blasted (cont. from p. 1)*

in small groups turning collars up against the mist that was lessening as the sun began to come up.

They had come to witness a part of Montana history. On Aug. 8, 2009, at 7:38 a.m. the Asarco stacks came down with an explosion that shook the very ground. The smallest one, built in the 1910s hit the ground first, followed by the others.

In about a minute, a towering symbol of Montana’s past lay in rubble.

Lead smelting began in East Helena in 1889 and ended in 2001. The massive sprinklers used to hold down the dust from the explosion were a reminder of the environmental damage built up over more than 100 years of operation.

Harry “Stack” Kovich, 91, stood with his children nearby as members of the Montana Historical Society photographed the event for the archives.

A lot of memories welled up in his eyes as he watched. He began

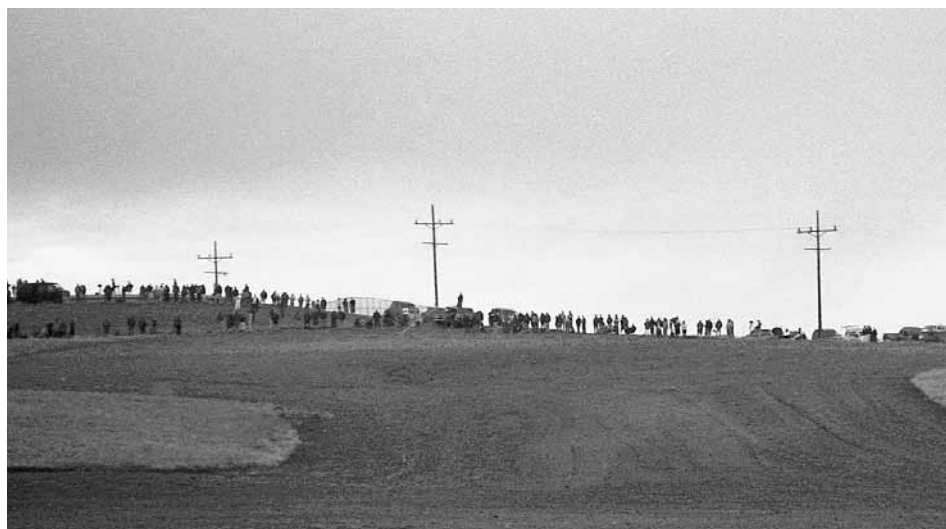
work at the smelter after graduating high school in 1936 and retired after 44 years on the job.

Stack got his nickname while playing baseball on the Asarco company team, and you could still tell from his still rugged frame that he could hit the ball that far when he was in his prime.

He said that he always followed company safety policies and that it was a “good place to work.” “It

put a lot of people to work. They took care of us. I’d make about \$3 and some cents a day at the first.” Stack said. “But what can you expect today? I figure they need to clean up the area, so clean it up.”

For good and for bad—your age has something to do with how much you see of each—an era of metals extraction and company towns has faded from Montana history. ★



Hundreds of people gathered on the hills behind ASARCO to watch history go down.

# Society Exhibit a 'Real Trip' to Glacier

The Montana Historical Society Museum's new "Land of Many Stories: The People and History of Glacier National Park" is a real adventure.

The exhibit, which will be up from Nov. 5, 2009, until Feb. 26, 2011, is designed so that visitors actually have the experience of finding their way through it—as though they were on a hike.

It isn't exactly a maze, but the designers joked that they were going to test it by having mice find their way through it.

The park will be celebrating its centennial in 2010, and the exhibit honors the role it has played in the history of the state.

The exhibit features historic photos from the Society collection, artwork, and artifacts.

It features the important people in the parks history including George Bird Grinnell, who first came to the area in 1885. "No words can describe the grandeur and majesty of these mountains,

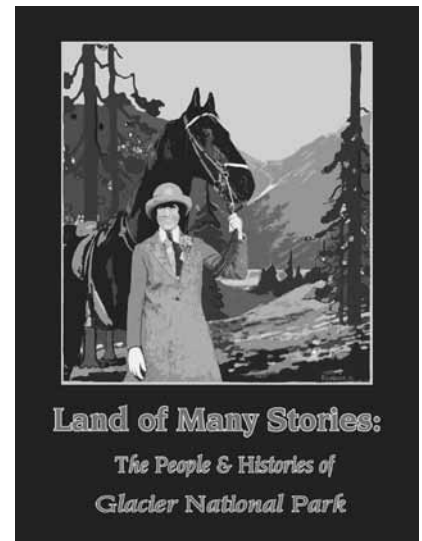
and even photographs seem hopelessly to dwarf and belittle the most impressive peaks . . . the region is a wonderful attraction for the lover of nature," Bird wrote.

Others not so famous like Elizabeth Collins, called the Cattle Queen of Montana later used as the title for a motion picture, are also featured. Collins mined with meager luck for three years along a creek in the park now named in her honor.

The exhibit takes the museum-goer from the days that Native Americans honored and used the land now knows as Glacier, all the



Glacier's history is one of all of the people who have called what is now Montana home.



way up to modern times and the pressures on America's last wild areas.

Bear management, forest fires, the environment, and how people have used the park over the years, are dealt with around different corners of the new exhibit.

Funding for the exhibit was provided by the Glacier National Park Fund and BNSF Railway.

This is an exhibit our members won't want to miss. ★

## Celebrating 100 Years on the Land

Keeping a farm or ranch in the same family for 100 years or more through good times and bad deserves recognition.

At the direction of the Montana Legislature, the Montana Historical Society has created the Centennial Farm & Ranch Program to identify and honor the families that have accomplished that feat.

"It is becoming less and less common for a large agricultural property to stay in the same family for one century or more. Factors like marketplace economics, agribusiness, and other necessary employment opportunities mitigate against holding on to the land your great-great grandparents settled," commented Society Director Richard Sims.

The history of the land is inseparable from the history of Montana, Sims said, and there are many lessons of stewardship that can be learned from the project.

"Those who have been on the same land for that long a time want to take good care of it, indeed have taken care of it. It is their heritage, and therefore a part of Montana's heritage," said John Boughton of the State Historic Preservation Office.

In order to qualify for centennial recognition, a farm or ranch must have been passed down through spouses, children, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, or adopted children in a continuous sequence of ownership. In addition, one current owner must be

a Montana resident. The farm or ranch does not have to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places to qualify.

There is a \$60 fee to cover the cost of processing applications, and the Society Research Center will provide technical assistance to those who need it.

The Research Center will place the information in the Society Archives and eventually want to share the histories by putting them on the Society web site.

Those who want more information or to apply can contact Boughton at 406-444-1687 or by email at [jboughton@mt.gov](mailto:jboughton@mt.gov).

The 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture reports there are 29,524 farms and ranches in Montana. ★

## Society's New Montana History Book Reinvigorating Teaching State History

The Montana Historical Society and its partners have sent students across the state back to school with a new award winning Montana history book.

Nearly 5,000 copies of the Society's *Montana: Stories of the Land* were provided free to 123 schools across the state. Free copies of the book also were provided to libraries across the state.

"Education is at the heart of everything we do at the Montana Historical Society," Society Director Richard Sims said. "We are honored to provide this quality book to make Montana history come alive for our young people."

*Montana: Stories of the Land* has reinvigorated the teaching of Montana history, and been praised by teachers and students alike.

Written by Krys Holmes with teacher consultants Susan C. Dailley and Moffie Funk and edited by Martha Kohl, the book drew on the extensive collections of the Society for information and illustrations. Historians, teachers and tribal consultants across the state improved the textbook by contributing their expertise.

Donors who made the project possible include the Montana History Foundation, the Steele-Reese Foundation, the Montana Office of Public Instruction, the Dennis and Phylis Washington Foundation, MEA-MFT, the Montana Department of Commerce, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

This is the second printing of the book. Last year 5,000 copies were provided free to 143 other schools. The Bair Trust, Donnelley Foundation, Betty Whitney MacMillan,



*Montana: Stories of the Land* Society project coordinator Martha Kohl receives award from the American Association for State and Local History.

Van Kirk and Helen Nelson, and PPL Montana helped to fund the first printing.

"We are thankful to all our contributors who are helping us educate a new generation who will be proud to call themselves Montanans," Sims said. ★

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### Trustees Name Heritage Keepers

Rancher and poet Wallace McRae of Rosebud Creek and Tobacco Valley historian Cathryn Schroeder of Eureka were presented the 2009 Montana Heritage Keepers Award presented by the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees.

The awards were presented at the Society's highly successful annual Montana History Conference held this year in Great Falls. Two awards are presented each year, one for a person in eastern Montana and one from the western part of the state.

McRae began writing poetry more than 40 years ago, and has helped tell the Montana story by writing of ranch life, interesting characters and personalities, as well as state history.

"Wally McRae's rich narrative of prose is a kaleidoscope of this special place we call Montana, and I am delighted he has been chosen for this honor for his contributions to history and heritage," Society Trustee Ed Smith said.

Schroeder and her husband Dr. Forest Schroeder moved to Eureka to practice medicine in the mid 1950s. The five-acre Historical Village in Eureka was spearheaded by Schroeder.

"Cathryn is a kind and generous woman, devoting so much of her time to the important work of holding on to the heritage of the far northwest corner of our state," Society Director Richard Sims said. ★

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### Quilt Book Makes Great Gift

The Montana Historical Society Press has just released *Border to Border: Historic Quilts and Quiltmakers of Montana* by Annie Hanshew with an introduction by Montana State University History Professor Mary Murphy.

The coffee-table-size book that makes a great gift contains hundreds of color photographs of historic Montana quilts and historic photographs of the people who made them.

The quilts and the fascinating stories behind them are broken into chapters that fit them into the history of the state. From Mon-

tana Territory, to statehood and settlement, to the hard times of the Great Depression, to modern Montana, to the quilting revival under way today,

Hanshew delves into the history and the fabric of what she calls "snapshots" of births, deaths, transformation, weddings and daily life contained in quilts.

"They are stories writ small, stories that don't make their way into history books but are stitched into the seams of Dresden Plate, Grandmother's Flower Garden, and crazy quilts," she writes in the book. ★

## Society Your Place for Holiday Gifts that Keep Giving

With the holidays just around the corner, we hope that you will keep us in mind when you think of special ways to give the gifts that keep on giving.

Gift memberships that include the nationally award-winning *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, let you share your love of this special land with others all year round. Call Membership Coordinator Kimberly Ramuta at 406-444-2918 or email her at [kramuta@mt.gov](mailto:kramuta@mt.gov) for more information including how to send gift cards.

Our remodeled Museum Store has special gifts around every corner. In addition to books and Charlie Russell prints, the store features Montana jewelry, Native American made items, Montana-themed holiday orna-



The Lewis and Clark limited-edition medallion makes a great heirloom gift.

ments, children's toys and much more. And if you can't make it to Helena, you can shop on line at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) or call toll-free 1-800-243-9900 and our friendly staff will help you find that special gift.

For that special heirloom gift, the Society still has a few limited-edition and numbered bronze Lewis and Clark medallions. Created by nationally-known bas relief artist Eugene Daub, they measure 3 inches in diameter and

## Bringing Home the Honors

The Research Center received three grants for projects; the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a major grant of \$280,000 to digitalize important Montana newspapers published between 1860 and 1922; the National Film Preservation Foundation awarded \$7,905 to preserve and duplicate three silent films by Jerold Van Faasen dating from 1939 to 1950 featuring footage of the construction of Fort Peck Dam; Humanities Montana awarded \$8,000 to digitize county histories in the Society collection.

*Montana The Magazine of Western History* and historian Tiffany Clay won an award from the Wild West History Association for an article in 2008 titled "A Call to Order: Law, Violence, and the

Development of Montana's Early Stockmen's Organizations."

The Society's new "Big Sky. Big Land. Big History." logo was one of 13 non-profit organizations logos nationally to receive the "2009 Getting Attention Nonprofit Tagline Award." Nearly 2,000 taglines were nominated for the honor.

The Society's new state history book, *Montana: Stories of the Land*, received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. The new book is being used in schools across the state, and is sparking new interest in teaching Montana history.

*Montana The Magazine of Western History* Photo Editor Glenda Bradshaw received the 2009 Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance. She is responsible for all the wonderful photographs that come to our members in the magazine four times a year. ★

feature portraits of Lewis and Clark on one side, and a buffalo on the other. Only 1,000 were made.

The design is taken from the 16½ by 8 foot titled *We Proceeded On* that dominates the Senate Chamber in the Montana Capitol. They sell for \$80 plus shipping and can be ordered through the store.

We know you appreciate Montana history, and we appreciate you. ★

## Hot New Books at Store

The Museum Store is your place for great books on Montana and the history of the West. And don't forget, members get a 15% discount! Great for gifts.

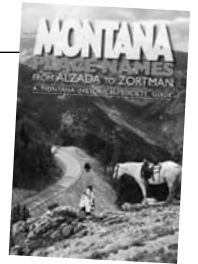
*Montana Place Names from Alzada to Zortman*—A must for any Montana history lover that loves all of the state's special cities and towns and historical places.

*Montana Women Homesteaders: A Field of One's Own*—Sarah Carter uses original accounts, reminiscences and photographs to bring the voices of women homesteaders alive again.

*Montana Chillers: 13 True Tales of Ghosts and Hauntings*—The Society's own Ellen Baumler is back chasing the ghosts and histories of Montana's past.

*Ken Burns: The National Parks: America's Best Idea*—Burns and Dayton Duncan did a special preview of this book for Society members and friends in Bozeman. He uses our collections in the work. The store also has a complete DVD set of the film.

*Images of America Series: Deer Lodge*—Lyndel Meikle, a long-time friend of the Society, takes the Deer Lodge Valley from the days of the Shoshone, who called it it-soo-ke-en-carne, up to modern times. ★



Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

# Montana Historical Society

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

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## Inside

- ✔ Director Sims finds jars “bees’ knees”
- ✔ New Society Exhibit a real journey
- ✔ Digitalizing famous newspapers
- ✔ What’s in a name? Read our new book
- ✔ 1880s letters to Fort Peck Indian Reservation



Steve Platt, Montana Department of Transportation archaeologist, demonstrates flint-knapping, one of the ancient skills that brought Archaeology Day at the Society to life for nearly 600 students.

*We appreciate our members!*