

Society **STAR**

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MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER 2010

Montana Music May Find a Home

Music has been a part of Montana history and heritage since the first Native Americans began to tell their ancient stories in song.

When Carroll College recently donated two record albums of Blackfeet and Crow songs recorded in the 1960s to the Society's Research Center, Library Manager Brian Shovers and his staff realized that a vital dimension of Montana culture was underserved.

"Music is a part of our culture that can't be captured in ways other than by listening to it through recordings," Shovers said. "Not just Native Americans, but Montana artists, musicians,

songwriters and performers right down to today."

The research center is considering whether to begin collecting, archiving and providing record players and other sound systems in the library to allow people to listen to the music to help them understand that part of Montana's past.

"Music is a lot more available to the general public who might not want to read books or look at maps in the library," Shovers said. "It's something that most people can relate to."

In addition to collecting old recordings, Shovers said the Library



Society Librarian Brian Shovers wants you to help decide whether old recordings should be collected for you.

could begin requesting free CDs from modern Montana singers, musicians and songwriters to expand the collection for future generations.

The music collection would include everything from Native American drum groups, to cowboy tunes, to miners ballads, to local bands and orchestras, to fiddlers,

Music (cont. on p. 4)



Society Director Richard Sims (at podium) congratulates Miles City Garfield Elementary School Fifth-grade teacher Bonnie Boggs for being named Montana History Teacher of the Year. Sims joined Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau and Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger in ceremonies that included Boggs and her students ringing the Montana Statehood Centennial Bell in the Capitol Rotunda. During her speech, Boggs praised the new Society Press history textbook, *Montana: Stories of the Land*.

Telling Personal Side of Montana History

The ways that the Montana Historical Society collects history are changing.

The written word is being lost in the jumble of text messaging, tweeting and other electronic communications, Society Research Center Oral Historian Rich Aarstad says, and that is why his job is so important

"Simply put, we are not getting the letters, diaries and other personal written reminiscences that we have in the past that have been an important part of research," he said. "We are losing the personal side of history."

Oral History (cont. on p. 4)

Reintroducing the Wolf

ANOTHER,
ECONOMIC MEANING

DIRECTOR RICHARD SIMS



At a committee hearing during the 2009 session, in response to a legislator's question about this agency's budget, its ability to adjust to a modest cut, and the discouraging national economy, I responded that "the wolf is not yet at Montana's door, but a dark shape can be discerned, moving through the trees along the distant ridgeline." With the Governor's foresight and a conservative management of the state budget, Montana has remained out of harm's way for much of the past two years. No longer. The wolf is now at the door of state government, and budget cuts that can no longer be described as modest are on the way. This wolf has been here before, now and then over the past decades, but perhaps not with such a fierce demeanor as this latest reintroduction appears.

At your Montana Historical Society, we will be making some tough, regrettable decisions over the next several months (and possibly the next few years), as we contemplate a 5%–10% decrease in the general funds we are allocated from the state legislature. We manage other funds that support special projects and certain day-to-day operations, but it is the general fund that dominates our two-year fiscal budget and that helps meet most of our payroll.

"Do more with less" is a valid motivational phrase in times of necessity, up to the intersection with criticality, and then you just have to do less. We will be defining those public services that we will continue to offer, and those services that may have to be reduced or go dormant for a while. But we

don't want you to go dormant. We shall need your support more than ever, to get through this rough patch. The membership provides an important source of revenue that is applied throughout the Society. With the reintroduction of the economic wolf, your contributions are all the more important. Your help may come in the form of continued membership, membership at a higher level, a gifted membership, an unrestricted donation, a gift of real property, estate planning that includes the Society as a beneficiary, and purchases in the Museum Store.

Please contact me, Richard Sims, Director, (406-444-5485; rsims@mt.gov) to discuss ways you can personally help. We can push that economic wolf back to the dark forest where he belongs, and continue planning for the bright future that Montana's main institution of history deserves. ★

About Us

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

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Something New, Something Old

TREASURES FROM THE
SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Sometimes History Just Finds Zoe

Society Reference Historian Zoe Ann Stoltz was amazed when she received a packet from a person in Minnesota who had asked if the Society would be interested in information about Montana she found in a relative's desk. "It was a time capsule," she said. "It was a beautiful view into how Montana tourism was promoted and defined in 1937." It will allow researchers to compare and contrast how state government's approach to tourism has evolved down to today's "Travel Montana" program, as well as how Montanans valued their outdoor riches. It includes pamphlets on Yellowstone, Glacier, Cooke City Highway, dude ranches, fly fishing, as well as other treasures like rare copies of "The Land of Shining Mountains," and "Headin' for the Hills" illustrated by famous Montana artist Shorty Shope. Since the packet was the complete tourism mailing sent out in 1937, the Society Research Center will keep it intact. ★



Great Museums and Galleries

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY MUSEUM



Bette Hull and a portrait of Ada Dart that led to a great exhibit on women's history.

The Beaverhead County Museum in Dillon is on track and on the tracks.

What started out in 1950 as a small log building has been lovingly built into a complex that includes a restored 1909 train depot, a one room school house and a log cabin. In addition to a great diorama of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which came through the area, the

restored depot has a wonderful bird exhibit. The bird exhibit was donated by local taxidermist Dennis Jones and includes all the birds found in the valley.

Railroad lovers will enjoy the model train display that tells a more modern part of the area's history, and even lets people "adopt" things in the exhibit.

On the Road (cont. on p. 4)

Society Star Profile

GLENDA BRADSHAW: PICTURE OF HISTORY

Glenda Bradshaw is proof that a picture is worth at least a thousand words.

As photo editor of the Montana Historical Society Publications Program, Bradshaw is responsible for the historic photographs, maps and illustrations that help make the Society's nationally award-winning *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and the books published by the Society so appealing.

"I am a very visual person so photographs and illustrations are very important to me," she said. "We use photos, illustrations and maps to make things more interesting to read and to capture people's interest."

Bradshaw's roots in Society and Montana history include having K. Ross Toole, considered the father of the modern Montana Historical Society, as an advisor and professor while getting her master's degree from the University of Montana.

After serving as Society registrar in 1978 and 1979, she went back east to earn a Masters in History Museum Studies at the Cooperstown Graduate Program,

part of the State University of New York, and in 1988 she rejoined the Society in her current position.

"Each photo can turn into its own research project. I don't discover more details every time," she said. "but it is important to make the image relate to what it illustrates and tell as much of its story as possible, too."

For example, an article on the World War Two exploits of the 163rd Regiment that trained in Montana took the reader and Bradshaw to New Guinea. "I knew absolutely nothing about New Guinea, but it was important to have a map to give the reader a sense of place," Bradshaw said. "Fred Naegele, who was a member of the 163rd, helped me nail down the map details," she said.

Technology continues to change the way that Bradshaw does her job. "One of the major changes is that I used to be on the phone all the time, while now I use email and the computer more," she said.

Still, resources like the Society Photo Archives and the Research Center, which she describes as "incredible," and tireless research are at the heart of what she does.



Glenda Bradshaw and some of the Society Press Awards she has helped garner

"It is most satisfying to know that our magazines and books will be on library shelves to many years to come," she said.

Years ago when her husband, Stan, took up competitive canoe racing, Bradshaw put her energy to work in another way. "I became the dutiful canoe partner going out to work out with him," she said. They now teach canoeing every summer.

When the going gets tough whether on the water or searching for the perfect photo or illustration for you, Bradshaw is up to the job. ★

Music (cont. from p. 1)

right down to the folk music of today, he said.

"As far as we know, no other institution in Montana is collecting Montana music," he said.

Given current budget challenges (see Richard Sims column on page two), Shovers said outside financial support and endowments probably would be needed to begin the new service.

"We feel this is very important," he said. "And we want to know what our members and patrons think."

To comment on the proposed new service or to donate to it, call Shovers at 406-444-7415 or preferably email him at bshovers@mt.gov. ★

On the Road (cont. from p. 3)

"We hope to emphasize the idea that the museum is not just a place where old stuff is kept," Museum Executive Director Bette Meine



Local Dillon fifth-grader Sara Malesich tries on Native American Dress at Beaverhead County Museum

Oral History (cont. from p. 1)

Communications of public figures in many cases are being saved in electronic archives, he said, "but that leaves a void for future researchers."

"What oral history does is that it democratizes history," Aarstad said. "You don't have to be a mover or a shaker or some one, quote, of importance, to have a voice in history."

That's why the Society is working with people across the state to help them record the voices of everyday people who have lived Montana history.

Aarstad said producing a useful oral history requires training. "It is more than turning the recorder on," he said. "It requires research

skill as well as an aptitude for getting people to talk in detail about events they witnessed and, or, participated in."

Society archives now holds more than 2,100 oral histories ranging from miners, to farmers and ranchers, to women who held families together in tough times, to those who toiled in Montana's forests, factories and smelters.

As part of its County History Initiative to support county centennials happening across the state, the Society held workshops to help local historians with oral histories and other local history projects.

The Daniels County Museum received one of those grants and is working with Scobey 11th grade history classes to gather oral histories from area veterans from World War Two to the conflicts of today.

Other organizations receiving grants for local projects were Rosebud County Library, Melstone Area Chamber of Commerce, Froid Public Library, Carbon County Historic Preservation Commission, Stillwater Historical Society/Museum of the Beartooths, Roberts Public Schools Fergus County Friends of the Archived Records, Mai Wah Society in Butte, Madison County Main Street Improvement Team, Polson Flathead Museum and the Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust.

Aarstad also loans out 18 digital recorders and provides training to any groups or individuals who call with a valid request to do oral history, so long as copies and release forms are provided to the Society archives. If you are interested call 406-444-6779 for more information.

"Given our current budget, this is a way that we can work with the public to add to the general body of Montana history," Aarstad said. ★

Hull. Through a Native American Education for All grant, the museum has created a beautiful Indian exhibit that includes many hands-on objects. "The students really like to try on the Native American replica clothing that was used by Native Americans in what is now Beaverhead County," she said.

One of Hull's favorite exhibits is on Ada Carter Dart, who is a descendent of Eliza Selway, one of the early settlers to the area. The exhibit began when the museum staff wanted to identify a beautiful young girl in a portrait donated to the museum. That led to finding paintings done by Ada and a book she had written, "Mystery of Silver Spring Ranch." "Her story worked in very well with curriculum we were developing on women in Beaverhead County history," Hull said.

Stop by downtown Dillon and learn more about Montana history from a friendly staff that enjoys meeting and talking with you. ★

History and Beauty Combined in Atlatl Weight

About 7,000 or 8,000 years ago in what is now Montana, hunters began attaching stone counterweights to their throwing sticks, or atlatls, creating more deadly weapons to gather food for their people.

One of those counterweights came down through history to link the hunter, Bill Holms, Troy Helmick and now the Montana Historical Society together across time.

In 1949, Holms was a young man from Roundup who spent as much time as he could exploring the wilds of the Musselshell Valley. On a fall day when the river was running low, he came upon a recently exposed gravel bar and found the exquisitely symmetrical and rare artifact.

At that time, it was the only atlatl weight known to be found in Montana. The atlatl is a throwing device that greatly increased the force of the projectile or dart before the advent of the bow.

In 2001 Helmick, who was aware of the beautiful artifact nick-named “the double-Shmoo” because of the carefully carved and uplifted ends that allowed the atlatl to flex, met Holms by chance at what was then known as Ulm Pishkun buffalo jump.

Holms had retired as curator and professor of Indian Art and



Society Curator of Collections Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney(left), Society and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth, (holding atlatl to show where the weight is attached) and Troy Helmick study the ancient atlatl weight donated to the Society.

Art History at Burke Museum and the University of Washington. The two shared an interest in the atlatl and hit it off as friends.

When Holms mentioned an interest in finding a Montana home for the atlatl weight, Helmick contacted Society and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth. Last September, Holms donated the object to the Society.

“We feel all the more fortunate at Bill’s generosity and interest in Montana’s heritage given his long, distinguished and fruitful relationship with the Burke Museum,” Wilmoth said.

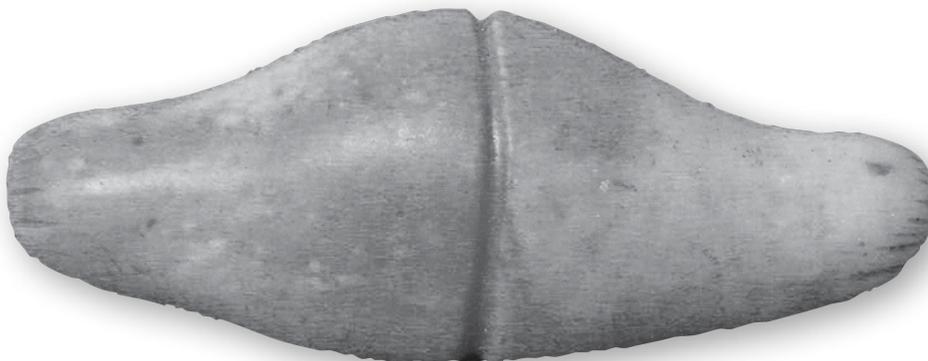
Helmick is a long-time friend of the Society, and teaches young

people to throw the atlatl each year during the Society’s Archaeology Day. He is a member of the World Atlatl Association, and a past champion of its competitions.

The artifact has special meaning to Helmick, because he understands the care and craftsmanship that went into creating it. “If an atlatl feels right, it is right, and that is why the weight is important,” Helmick said paraphrasing his good friend and fellow atlatl champion Jim Ray. “It’s like getting the right bat in baseball.”

It also is important to Helmick because his daughter, Char (Helmick) Pentecost, was also a champion thrower in the women’s division. Char, who worked for a time in the Society’s Museum program, died recently in a tragic accident. “I know it would be important to her,” he said.

Helmick has tracked down and documented eight more atlatl weights found in Montana, but none with the beautiful craftsmanship of the double-Sshmoo. He encouraged anyone with knowledge of others found in Montana to contact the Society. ⚔



This beautiful ancient atlatl weight now helps the Society tell the Montana story.



Kids of all ages have fun in the Society's new "Young at Heart Montana" exhibit. A joint venture of the Museum, Research Center and Outreach and Interpretation Programs, the gallery is by the "Montana Homeland Exhibit," and helps parents, grandparents, and guardians engage youngsters in learning about their past in an exciting, hands-on way.

Virginia City History Camp

OPEN TO YOUTH AGE 11 TO 16.....

The Virginia City History Camp is an experience that young people will carry with them the rest of their lives.

The Society is partnering with the Montana Heritage Commission again this summer to use one of the nation's premier historic mining towns as the backdrop to fun and education.

Society Research Historian Ellen Baumler, who has been involved with the camp for 10 years, will be providing tours and talks, Reference Historian Zoe Ann Stoltz will teach how to make frontier bags, Museum Store Clerk Bobi Harris will instruct basket making, and Museum Manager Bill Mercer will give fireside chats about Native American pathways.

Society Director Richard Sims will demonstrate and provide an open-fire dutch-oven meal to the kids at both camps.

"History camp offers kids a rare opportunity to get up close and personal with a one of the nation's premier National Historic Landmarks," Baumler said. "Kids who attend camp at Virginia City experience a real taste of the West and gain a perspective that most never achieve."

Camps will be July 18-24 for ages 11-13, and Aug. 1-7 for ages 14-16. Tuition is \$400, and you can call 406-843-5247 for more information, scholarships, or to register. ☼

The budget for creating and presenting the traveling exhibition across the state is projected at \$35,000-\$40,000. For more information on sponsorship opportunities or individual contributions call Sims at 406-444-1799. The Society needs your help to honor all our Montana veterans. ☼

'Native Words, Native Warriors'

HONORS CODE TALKERS, ALL VETERANS.....

The Montana Historical Society is scheduling the Smithsonian Institution's "Native Words, Native Warriors" exhibit for venues across the state to honor Native Americans and all veterans for their service to their country.

"We are welcoming sponsors who want to be associated with this important project," Society Director Richard Sims said. "This is a rare opportunity to honor Montana's Indian veterans, and all veterans, as well as to honor the important work of retaining native languages."

The Smithsonian created this exhibit to tell the remarkable story of Indian Marines and soldiers from more than a dozen tribes who used their coded native languages as a weapon against U.S. enemies.

The Navajo code talkers during World War Two have received the most recognition, but the exhibit shows that Native Americans were first enlisted to relay messages using their own languages during World War One.

Marines and soldiers from the Assiniboine, Sioux, Navajo, Hopi, Kiowa, Comanche, Choctaw, Cherokee, Meskwaki, Creek, Chipewewa, Cree, Sac and Fox, Oneida,

Menominee, and Seminole nations all served as code talkers.

The Society enjoys this unique opportunity as an official Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees member George Horse Capture of Great Falls initiated this exhibit when he was a Smithsonian curator, and will serve as guest curator of the Montana exhibit.

In addition to honoring all Montana Indian veterans including code talkers, the exhibit would recognize the service of all Montana veterans and the National Guard during the nation's international wars and conflicts.

With the help of sponsors and contributors, the Society will launch the exhibit with a premier in Helena during April 2010.

The exhibit, co-sponsored by the Gov. Office of Indian Affairs, would be taken to venues on Montana's eight Reservations. Montana has always been a leader in percentage of Native American enlistments.

The Society is already working with Tribal Veterans' Representatives and tribal councils who would contribute their own ways of honoring and celebrating their warriors during each four-day event.

Shop Our Museum Store, Get Your Discount

HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE MONTANA HISTORY

The Society's Museum Store offers books, art prints, special gifts and much more that are the best Montana has to offer.

Store Manager Sherry Jonckheere and her staff work hard to serve your needs. "My main focus in merchandising for our store is to provide quality, unique items that allow our members and visitors to take a piece of Montana home with them," she said.

Montana and western history books, and Charles M. Russell prints, canvases and other merchandise are "best sellers," she said, but the Museum Store offers much more.

"It's vital to us to offer made in Montana items, original art from Native Americans, and other materials that speak to our Montana and Western America history buffs," she said. Ⓢ



The Museum Store features a great collection of Native American art and authentic reproductions of traditional items made by Montana Native Americans.

Your Employer Might Match Your Contribution to the Society

Wouldn't it be great to be able to double your donation to the Montana Historical Society? You may be able to do just that.

The Montana Historical Society appreciates the generous support we receive from individuals throughout the year to help sustain our programs. Many employers provide a corporate matching gift which may double—or even triple—your contribution. This is an effective way to increase the amount of your gift without any additional cost to you. Many businesses match contributions of spouses and retirees, too.

Just check with your company's human resources/personnel department to see if they offer a

matching gifts program. If they don't, you may want to ask your company to start one. If your employer has a matching gift program, they will provide you with a matching gift form to initiate the match. Just send the donation to us with the completed form at Montana Historical Society, Attention: Matching Gift Program, PO Box 201201, Helena MT 59620-1201. We will verify receipt of your gift and return the form to your company. The Montana Historical Society will then receive a matching contribution from your employer, making your gift go even further! If you have any questions call Society Special Projects Manager Sue Near at 406-444-4713. Ⓢ

Society Membership Continues to Grow

Have you ever wondered how many members support the Montana Historical Society? Perhaps you'd like to know the breakdown by membership level. I'm pleased to share these numbers with you and will update you as the Society membership continues to grow.

Currently, we have 1,834 members at the Montana Historical Society. The breakdown by category is:

MEMBER LEVEL	AMOUNT	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
Heritage Benefactor	\$1000	9
Big Medicine Patron	\$ 800	5
Homesteader	\$ 400	19
Prospector	\$ 200	72
Explorer	\$ 100	278
Family	\$ 60	439
Individual	\$ 45	1012

56% of our members live in Montana (1,025); 44% of members hail from the other 49 states (801) and we even have 8 members from outside the U.S.

These statistics do not reveal the amount of ongoing dollar donations and enthusiasm each of you provide in partnering with us. Throughout the year MHS programs will receive additional donations and dollars from members to assist in our ongoing work. Each member has some connection to Montana and its history and supports the preservation of all that comprises our state's heritage through membership with MHS. Our deepest gratitude goes out to you for your support.

We have great plans for the future of MHS and will continue to grow membership. It's equally important that we meet and exceed your expectations as a partner in this business. If you have suggestions or thoughts, drop me an email at kramuta@mt.gov or call at 406-444-2918. I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for your membership and support. Ⓢ

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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The Montana Historical Society volunteers, which now total 148 people who donated nearly 7,000 hours last year, literally serve the needs of all the Society's programs. Volunteers Jim Greene and Vicki Smith even played butler and maid at a recent fund raising event at the Original Governor's Mansion.

We appreciate our members!