

Stan Lynde: A Montana Good Guy

When he was growing up on his family's ranch near Lodge Grass on the Crow Indian Reservation in the 1930s, Stan Lynde could only dream about getting a cartoon strip of his own.

But Lynde has always chased his dreams—and still is—and in the end his name was published more times in national newspapers than any other Montanan's probably ever will be again.

In 1958, after being turned down by twelve big cartoon syndicates, Lynde finally got his "Rick O'Shay" strip accepted by the *Chicago Tribune/New York Times* syndicate. In 1979 Lynde launched a

new strip, "Latigo," with the Field Syndicate that ran until 1983, and he also worked on a cartoon strip for Swedish publications.

Throughout that time, his name was seen by about 15 million readers a day in major papers across the country. He returned to Montana in 1962, setting up his art studio in his Billings home.

After his cartoon career, Lynde, 81, took up another challenge and became an award-winning author of the Merlin Fanshaw novels.

In a 1967 exhibit of Lynde's work at the Montana Historical Society Museum, he summed up his vision. "My goal is connection



Stan Lynde donated his "good guy" white cowboy hat to MHS along with original cartoon strips and other memorabilia.

with those who view my work in whatever form. Most of all, I am interested in communicating, sharing emotion and experience on a deeper level, telling a story,"

Stan Lynde (cont. on p. 4)

Tribute to a Working Man

It was just before Labor Day when a call came into the Montana Historical Society asking about Tom Chop.

Lots of folks research well-known Montanans like artist Charlie Russell, leader Mike Mansfield, and others whose stories are well recorded at MHS.

This call was from a reporter who had stumbled on a story about some remarkable linoleum floor murals that were discovered under carpet that was being replaced in a Helena elementary school.

The reporter had learned that the murals were possibly done by a



One of the beautifully crafted and seamlessly finished floor murals created by master craftsman Tom Chop

worker at a local flooring business, and that his name was Tom Chop.

As it does when anyone walks into or calls MHS with a history question, the Research Center went to work. By the reporter's deadline, staff had learned where Chop was buried and where he had

lived in Helena, but there was no other archival material on him in the collection.

With its usual bulldog tenacity, their staff kept on the story and built on a tip that Chop was what used to be called deaf and mute. A call to the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind led to a person who knew Chop's daughter, Nancy, and where she lived in California.

Follow-up calls eventually put MHS in contact with Nancy and her husband, James Cummins. It turned out that Nancy, who is also hearing impaired, had attended the School for the Deaf and Blind in Montana, too, and was coming back to Montana in a couple of weeks for a reunion in Great Falls.

Working Man (cont. on p. 5)

Reflections on a Year at the MHS

In September 2011, I began a new stage of my career as Director of the Montana Historical Society. I have tried to be a good learner, ask a lot of questions, and take advantage of working in a center of knowledge and education. As I grew more confident in the position, I shared my thoughts about a vision for the kind of organization the Montana Historical Society is and what more it can be. Here's some of what I wrote early in 2012.

Vision for the Montana Historical Society

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

The Montana Historical Society holds in trust Montana's past while sharing the stories and lessons that will create Montana's bright future. Helping each Montanan discover why our history and heritage is not only interesting and exciting but important.

- A great place to work
- Worthwhile work, where everyone recognizes the value in what they do
- Empowered, in charge of achieving goals
- Fun, celebration, support for one another
- We're engaged and providing leadership across our Montana community.
- We are helping shape the nature of public discourse in Montana.
- We are always looking for partners, collaborators, friends and colleagues.

The MHS is not just relevant, but important to every Montanan. Every Montanan knows us and has some connection to our work.

Now, over one year later, I believe these principles apply every day at the Montana Historical Society. This organization is a leader among its peers. Whether through the extraordinary collections of Montana's Museum, the expansive State Archives and the

Research Center through which these materials are made available, the readership of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, the countless public and educational programs created by the Outreach and Interpretation program, and the vast expertise shared in every corner of Montana by the State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society is recognized for its collections, publications, programming, and people. As I've traveled the state telling the story of the Montana Historical Society, I often find that the full scope of its work is not recognized by many. That's understandable. The Society is often merely known as "The Museum." But when you are able to see the full picture of the work—five major program areas and countless services—it reinforces what a true treasure this institution is for the state of Montana.

Although chartered in 1865, the MHS looks to the future. That's the nature of our mission. Our dream of the new Montana

Heritage Center is about reaching more and more Montanans and visitors with our work and why it's so important to the future of our state. Those dreams are only realized when the value of the many programs at the Montana Historical Society are realized.

My history with the Montana Historical Society has been very brief, but nonetheless has had a significant impact on my life. I hope that you will continue to explore with me the many programs, collections, and services of the Montana Historical Society. I'm sure you will agree how fortunate we are to have "The Smithsonian of the West" right here in Montana. ☺

About Us

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

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www.montanahistoricalociety.org

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD: TREASURES FROM THE SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

There Really Are Things in the Attic

The attic really is a great place to go for history.

When Thomas and Teresa Kaiserski went up to the attic in the house they purchased on Townsend Avenue in Helena, they found something they thought would add to Montana history—a military duffle bag with a dress Navy uniform and a military backpack.

They brought it to the Montana Historical Society. Museum staff was interested in the find and went to work to learn more about it. It turned out that the uniform had been worn by Petty Officer

Melvin Smith, who served in the Vietnam War.

Using that information, staff contacted Smith, who still lives in Montana. When he came to identify the bag and uniform, he reflected on his military service. His father had lived in the house before moving to a retirement home. When they cleaned the home to sell it, no one looked in the attic.

A lot of memories, some good and some not so good, are hidden in the attic. If you come across something you think is part of history, please let us know. ☺

ON THE ROAD TO MONTANA'S GREAT MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Experience the Moss Mansion in Billings

Montana is blessed with many beautiful historic mansions.

One of the most interesting and unique is the Moss Mansion in Billings, which was built in 1903 and is operated year-round as a historic house museum open to the public. It is well worth a visit.

It was designed by New York architect Henry Janeway Hardenbergh, who conceived many great buildings including the Waldorf-Astoria Plaza Hotel. The impressive red stone structure was built for Preston Boyd Moss and is furnished as it was when his family lived there more than one hundred years ago.

The house includes original draperies, fixtures, appliances, furniture, Persian carpets, and

other artifacts owned by Moss, who was a prominent Montana banker, newspaper founder, and entrepreneur. It has been featured in Reader's Digest's book *Great American Homes*, on the A&E program *America's Castles: The Great Frontier*, and in *National Geographic* and other publications.

"Visitors from near and far make a tremendous difference in our ability to maintain the historically significant home for future generations," Moss Mansion Executive Director Jenna Richter said. "Stroll through the beautiful grounds, shop at Mattie's Gift Shop, and visit with our knowledgeable and friendly volunteers."

The mansion is open June through September 9 A.M. to



Architectural beauty and Montana history come together in the Moss Mansion.

4 P.M. Monday through Saturday and Sunday 1 to 3 P.M. Hours October through May are 1 to 3 P.M. daily. For more information and tour hours, log on to www.mossmansion.com. It is located near downtown Billings at 914 Division Street. 📍

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE Nicole Boileau: A Friendly Face at the Montana Historical Society

When she greets you at the front desk of the Montana Historical Society, Nicole Boileau is ready—and happy—to talk Montana history with you.

When she came to Montana from her native California to get her history degree at Carroll College, Boileau had some preconceived ideas.

"Like many people, I had a romantic concept of the Old West," she said. "What has been interesting to me is separating the fact from the fiction."

She started out as a tour guide for MHS in the State Capitol and the Original Governor's Mansion before taking her current job in guest services.

"It was very helpful to be a tour guide first, because I got a good idea of what people expect when they come here," she said.

Although she enjoys interacting with all those who come to MHS, Boileau says working with young people and their teachers who come to visit the museum is a special part of her job. "I love the kids. I love to see them excited about history. It is great to hear them say things like, 'I can't wait to come back here again,'" she said.

In addition to greeting guests, taking admission, and answering questions, Boileau also schedules school tours and tour guides.

When asked what is the most common question she gets, Boileau quickly smiled and said, "Where are the restrooms? The other question that makes me giggle is when they ask where the Capitol is when they just walked right by it."

What she calls "The Buffalo Triumvirate" draws the most comments and questions.



Nicole Boileau greets a visitor to the Montana Historical Society.

"The triumvirate is the white buffalo, Big Medicine; Charlie Russell's painting of buffalo crossing the river in *When the Land Belonged to God*; and the dramatic diorama of the buffalo jump site," she said.

Boileau enjoys theatre and acting and wants to get involved with historic interpretation. "I can't see myself as a traditional teacher. But I like interacting with people and sharing their excitement about history." 📍

Digging Into Your Past

Like many others who came to Montana, Magnus Lindstrand arrived through a roundabout way. Immigrating to the United States from Sweden in 1886, Magnus first went to Minnesota. But he didn't stay long. Work on the Great Northern Railway took Magnus to the Milk River area of Montana. Magnus filed on a homestead in Musselshell County and in 1891 married Ida C. Johnson, also a Swedish immigrant. The couple raised a family there, and their descendants are still living in Montana today.

Behind family stories like this are facts. When were grandma and grandpa married? Did my family have a homestead, did they come to Montana for other opportunities, or were they living here long before the homestead era? Where was my great-grandpa born? Was my grandmother an immigrant?

The answers to these questions help to confirm and add depth to our family stories and identity. The Montana Historical Society can help in your search for these answers.

There are many different resources available to find out about your family history. U.S. Census records, for example, are very informative. Take Ida and Magnus. The U.S. Census for 1900 reveals that Ida was three years older than Magnus and that the couple had been married for nine years and had three children. For Montana, census records from 1870 through 1940 can help to locate where a family was living, what work they were involved in, and many other interesting pieces of information.

Obituaries and other recorded family stories can add to our understanding of our family's his-

tory. With the largest collection of Montana newspapers in existence, the MHS is the place to come to find this information. The vast collection of oral histories and written reminiscences in the MHS collection can also provide a first-hand account of the lives of our family members.

These resources and many more are freely available for your use in the Research Center at the Montana Historical Society.

Some of our tools for digging into family history are available online, too. Check out the MHS website (montanahistoricalsociety.org) and the Montana Memory Project (mtmemory.org) for items such as livestock brands, county history books, and photographs; and search historic Montana newspapers on *Chronicling America* (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). ★

Stan Lynde (cont. from p. 1)

he said. He is a longtime friend and supporter of MHS.

"I have been a fan of Rick O'Shay and Hipshot for most of my life," MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said. "The gentle nature of the characters and the romantic depiction of the Old West appealed to this flatlander kid. Never did I dream that I would one day meet the creator of my favorite strip or be a part of his historic contribution to the Montana Historical Society."

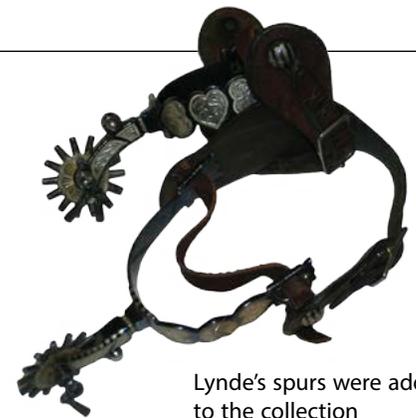
In November, Lynde and his wife, Lynda, donated some of his original art, memorabilia, and possessions to MHS. They include things like original cartoon drawings, his saddle, an 1851 Navy Colt revolver, caps, spurs, a registered branding iron, and mementos from the 1989 Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive, which he headed up. And those who have

known him over the years will appreciate that he also donated his trademark white "good guy" cowboy hat.

The collection the Lyndes donated is even more important because many of his original strips



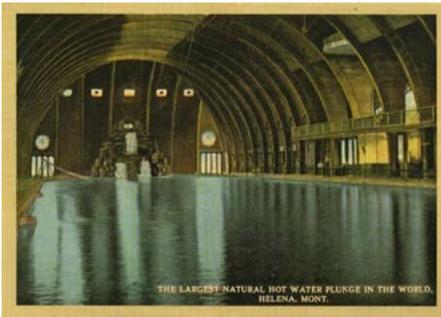
Original art donated by Lynde from one of his cartoon strips



Lynde's spurs were added to the collection

and other artwork and items were destroyed in a tragic fire at their ranch near his family's original property in 1990. The couple later moved to Helena.

Now the Lyndes are off chasing another dream. They are moving to Ecuador. But they will return often to Montana where they still have family and friends. Although he donated his six-gun, Stan is taking along his trusty computer so he can continue to thrill us with his stories of Montana and the Old West. ★



Images from Montana's past like this one showing the Broadwater Natatorium could be lost without your help.

Working Man (cont. from p. 1)

Through an interpreter, Nancy said she was excited to learn that her father's work was drawing such attention. She agreed to stop by MHS during her upcoming trip.

When she arrived with her husband, Nancy brought along a great collection of photographs of Chop, including one of him proudly showing off a chair he had made in woodworking class as a student, several at work as a linoleum layer, and other family photos. She also brought news clippings about his mother, detailing how she had come to the United States with a young Tom from Austria in 1920 after her husband was killed in World War I.

Nancy taught hearing impaired students in California for many years before retiring and can read lips and speak fluently. She was excited to see her father's work. As a young girl, she remembered pushing a roller to help her dad lay linoleum.

MONTANA MODERN

Maybe you read about it in *Montana Magazine* (Nov./Dec. 2012: *Montana's Mad Men Days*); now visit us on the Preservation Office's website at <http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/modernism.asp> to learn more about the Society's efforts to bring greater understanding and appreciation to Montana's post-World War II Modernism architectural legacy. Forward into the Past!

P.S., Help Save Important Postcard Collection

In the Spring issue of this newsletter, we announced our fund-raising efforts to acquire the Mulvaney Postcard Collection. This collection of nearly 32,000 postcards, dating from 1898 to the 1970s, covers a wide variety of topics in Montana history—including mining, agriculture, commerce, western life, and American Indians.

The Mulvaney Collection provides substantial visual documentation of Montana's history in the early twentieth century. Many of the views included in this collection are rare and one of a kind. The contents of the collection,

from both a topical and a format point of view, are significant to the study and documentation of Montana history.

We are grateful to our many generous supporters who have already given to this acquisition. We are almost there. If you would like to help, please contact Molly Kruckenberg, Research Center Manager, at 406-444-4787 or mkruckenberg@mt.gov. Donations can also be mailed to:

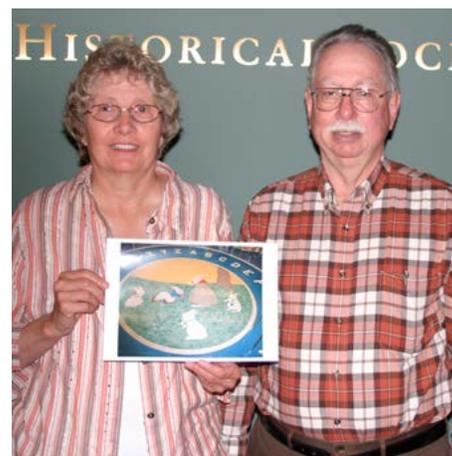
Mulvaney Postcard Collection
 Montana Historical Society
 PO Box 201201, 225 N. Roberts
 Helena, MT 59620-1201

Although she didn't remember the murals found in the schools, "I remember him saying several times when I came home from school that he was working on 'something special'—he called it," she said.

Chop had attended an advanced linoleum design school in Minnesota, she remembered, and had worked on other "special" projects before retiring in 1981. She recalled specifically that he had done "something special" for Glacier Park, and MHS wants to hear from anyone who is aware of his work or things he might have created that still exist.

While touring Montana's Museum, Nancy saw a large wood carving of Native Americans done by famous Blackfoot artist John Clarke, who was also deaf and mute. "My dad knew him, and he used to come to our house," she said. "I remember them having coffee in the kitchen."

It seemed fitting that the master craftsman, a friend of Clarke, joined him in the MHS archives as Montana celebrated Labor Day and honored those who worked hard to make their state a better and more beautiful place.



Nancy and James Cummins filled in the history behind the wonderful floor murals like the one in the photo she is holding that were created by her dad.



Master craftsman Tom Chop in his shop

Tribute and Memorial Contributions to the Montana Historical Society

Thank you to those who made honor and remembrance gifts in support of the programs of the Montana Historical Society. Donations were received in the name of:

Betty Babcock

Indefatigable former first lady of Montana Betty Babcock was honored to celebrate her dedication to Montana history on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

Jim Posewitz

Outdoor activist and author Jim Posewitz of Helena was honored as recipient of the Montana Conservation Voter's 2012 Conservation Champion of the Year Award. Congratulations, Jim!

Ruth Cooney (1918–2012)

Ruth met her husband, Rod Cooney, while working at the Public Works Administration in Washington, D.C. The couple moved to Butte after World War II. She raised three children and over many years volunteered at her church and for the Mothers March of Dimes and hospital auxiliary. Ruth was the mother of former MHS Interim Director Mike Cooney.

Edith Craig (1919–2012)

Edith was born in North Dakota to Scandinavian immigrants; after her mother died, her father returned to Denmark, leaving young Edith with a neighboring farm couple who raised her as their own. Edith came to Butte in 1941 and was an active volunteer in many Butte organizations. Through genealogical research she found her Danish family and reunited with them when she was eighty years old. Edith was the mother of former MHS Director Brian Cockhill.

Don Eyre (1910–2012)

Don lived his entire life (nearly 102 years) in Montana; he truly

loved the state and its heritage. He grew up on a ranch in Augusta but lived all over Montana following many pursuits, including breaking horses, driving stage, delivering mail on horseback, serving as county supervisor for the Farm and Home Administration, and working as an insurance agent. He and his wife, Mildred, were married seventy-six years.

Colonel Joe Goldes, USA (Ret.)

(1924–2011)

An avid supporter of the Helena community, Joe was always a positive force to the many people he encountered. He was a veteran of World War II and had an illustrious career in the U.S. Army. Joe was a member of MHS and loved history, ably aiding his wife, Leila, in her work with the Original Governor's Mansion Restoration Society.

David Grandon Gates (1956–2011)

David was an engineer by trade, employed by NorthWestern Energy, and was active in many professional associations and non-profit boards. But the Lewistown native's main passion was flying, especially in the big skies of Montana, and he cherished the people and history of his home state.

Harriet Hayne (1922–2012)

As a young couple, Harriet and Jack Hayne moved to Dupuyer in 1953 to ranch following military service and lived for a short time in Washington state. Harriet's many community activities focused on youth, agriculture, church, and Republican politics. Her can-do spirit imbued countless others.

Jane Hibbard (1922–2011)

Jane called the Sieben Live Stock Company ranch home after her marriage to Hank Hibbard in 1945. Though accustomed to living in cities like St. Paul and New

York, she embraced her new life with energy and wit. Her legacy in Montana is rooted in her focus on excellence, philanthropy, and family.

Marguerite "Spot" Jones

(1916–2011)

Generous, caring, and fun-loving, Spot was a one-of-a-kind Montanan who loved the outdoors and had numerous hobbies and pursuits. She was proud of her deep roots in the state, and was never without a story about people or events of the past. She was the mother of Roberta Jones-Wallace, MHS staff member.

Ginger Renner (1921–2011)

Known for her love of art and artists, Ginger owned art galleries in California and Arizona and became one of the leading authorities on the art of C. M. Russell alongside her husband, Fred Renner. A collector, author, and lecturer, she had a special affinity for Montana.

Rita Sheehy (1921–2012)

Never idle, Rita not only kept busy raising eleven children but was also involved in all kinds of activities and causes in her home communities of Billings and Helena. She was a passionate advocate of Democratic politics, the right to clean air and water, educational excellence, and Montana history. Rita was a beloved longtime volunteer for the MHS.

Ellen Simpson (1946–2012)

Proud of her Butte roots, Ellen lived most her adult life in the Helena area where she was active in a variety of community organizations. She was an active lobbyist, working on anti-gambling legislation and timber industry issues for the Montana Wood Products Association. Donations in her name also honored the Montana Club.

Tribute (cont. on p. 7)

Celebrate Historic Preservation

The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office will honor properties, people, and projects that represent state history and heritage during ceremonies in Helena on Friday, January 18, at 1:30 P.M. at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena.

Governor Steve Bullock will present certificates to owners of thirty-seven properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places during the past two years.

State Historic Preservation Awards will also be presented during the ceremonies for outstanding contributions to Montana history and heritage.

A free public reception at the Myrna Loy Theater will follow the awards ceremony. For more information contact John

Boughton at jboughton@mt.gov or 406-444-3647.

You can also see the SHPO's annual report of activities on its webpage at <http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/about.asp>. Highlights of this past year include the program's sponsorship and participation in the first biennial statewide *Preservation Road Show* last spring



Your support helps us take the stories of Montana like ancient archaeology to young and old across the state.

in Dillon, a published study of state agency stewardship of state-owned heritage properties requested by the legislature, and the listing of five Modernist architecture properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

The latter properties include two of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs in Montana—the University Heights Historic District near Darby and the Lockridge Medical Center in Whitefish—that reflect some of his earliest (1909) and latest (1961) work. 🌟

Tribute (cont. from p. 6)

Paul Verdon (1926–2012)

Paul had a deep interest in history and was a member and volunteer of the Montana Historical Society. He had a long, illustrious career as a newspaper editor, working in Malta, Great Falls, and Libby; he later worked for the state Legislative Services division as a researcher.

Wayne Yadon (1924–2012)

Though Oklahoma born, Wayne lived in Klein and Square Butte as a child, graduating from Great Falls High School in 1942. After serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, he attended the University of Montana. Wayne lived and worked in Oregon since 1965, but his love for Montana and its history never left him.

Thanks to families and friends of these outstanding people for remembering them through a memorial gift to the Montana Historical Society.

Contact Susan Near, Development and Marketing Officer at (406) 444-4713 or snear@mt.gov for more information or to discuss other recognition ideas. You can send honor donations to: Tributes & Memorials, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, 225 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59620-1201. 🌟

You Make a Difference in Preserving Montana History and Heritage

BY REBECCA BAUMANN, MHS MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Association, connection, affiliation, relationship, attachment, belonging, and inclusion; these are just some of the words that define a member. All of these words are positive, uplifting, and inspirational. Do you feel inspired? Do you realize that you inspire others? You do. Just by the fact that you are a member of the Montana Historical Society, you inspire others. As your Membership Coordinator, I witness this inspiration on a regular basis. Your continued support helps the MHS staff provide educational offerings to students and the public, and you help fund the purchase of Montana historic artifacts and other acquisitions for our permanent collections. Your ongoing support means Montana is important to you and you are interested in investing in its

future and legacy.

As we roll into a new year, we are eager to move forward to fund the new Montana Heritage Center. We will continue to grow and enhance membership services and keep you informed. Do you know like-minded folks who have an interest in Montana or in history? Perhaps a history buff or someone you'd like to inspire? Please feel free to pass along their information, and I would be happy to contact them with a special invitation to become a member. If you have a reason to give a gift, please think about giving a gift of membership and inspire others to learn more about their past. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Call me with any questions at 406-444-2918 or email rbaumann@mt.gov. 🌟

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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

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Stan and Lynda Lynde donated original cartoon strips, artwork, and other memorabilia collected from his amazing career telling the Montana story his own way with a little help from Rick O'Shay and Latigo. MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg (right) said he grew up reading Lynde's work, but never dreamed he would get a chance to meet him.

We are thankful for our members!