

Montana's Museum Has Some Different Things on the Line

The Montana Historical Society is airing its dirty laundry in the museum—and is proud of it.

The new exhibit, *Dora's Laundry*, draws on a set of business ledgers that Dora Linebarger kept from 1911 to 1923 for her business that she ran out of her home in Montana.

Dora was born in Missouri in 1868 and came to Montana, where she was a homemaker, homesteader, and servant and also ran her own laundry business. She lived in Fergus County and also in the Missoula area. Dora's meticulous business records list the names, bills, and payments for items she took in to clean, as well as other information.

About a year ago, MHS curator of history Sarah Nucci was at the University of Montana's Mansfield Library doing research for another exhibit. While there, she ran across a reference to Dora's business records.

"The library staff were surprised I was interested and said that it was the first time anyone had asked for them," Nucci said.

Nucci has a special interest in textiles and historical garments and was intrigued by what she found. "When we put the information from the records into spreadsheets, we started to see trends such as starching shirts for Christmas and how often people brought laundry in," she said.

From that information, Nucci gained insight into how holidays, seasons of the year, and special



Sarah Nucci is "awash" with what she is learning and sharing in the new exhibit.

occasions like weddings affected Dora's business. Other factors, such as how long people wore clothes before washing them or getting them mended or eventually throwing them away, also affected her business.

"You see things like people bringing in three-and-a-half pairs of stockings, so you know they didn't throw them away until they were totally worn out," Nucci said.

"Museums often have grand textiles on exhibit like wedding dresses, gowns, top hats and tails,

and other special things people wore," she said. "This gives us a chance to show the things people wore every day and to better understand the way they lived."

The Montana Historical Society is always looking for new ways to study and understand history, Nucci said. Nucci already has plans for a major exhibit in the future that will incorporate what she has learned from Dora, expanded to include the science of domestic economy, or home economics as most people know it. ☆

Helen Clarke A LIFE TO REMEMBER.....

She was born in 1846 at the mouth of the Judith River to a fur trader father and a Piegan mother. She became an actress in New York, was one of the first two women elected to public office in Montana, and later played a part in national Native American policy.

Helen P. Clarke is the stuff from which legends are made, yet her name and her accomplishments have never received the acclaim they deserve.

In March, during Women's History Month, the Montana *Helen Clarke* (cont. on p. 4)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER,
BY BRUCE WHITTENBERG

Something's Always Cooking at MHS

When you hear about the Montana Historical Society, what do you think about? Montana's Museum may come to mind, or one of the fun public programs, or perhaps the latest edition of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

Those of us who have the privilege of working at the Montana Historical Society might think of historic aprons and the smell of pancakes. Sometimes the study of history involves hours perusing historic documents, and sometimes it involves taste-testing historic recipes from the archives of the Montana Historical Society. On a recent morning, hot plates were fired up, aprons were donned, and johnny cakes, German pancakes, and coconut cakes were among the delicacies on the menu. The pancake chefs wore aprons with a connection to their family histories.

During my career, I've studied various organizational philosophies and leadership models. A school of thought that I've come to appreciate is "the customer comes second." Simply put, if you take care of the people in your



Flipping pancakes and participating in an apron contest are part of what we do to test the historic recipes from our cookbook collection.

organization, they will take care of the customers. If we create a workplace based on healthy relationships, trust, and fun, it will lead to creativity, innovation, and productivity.

Behind the pancake breakfast is a spirit. Author and management guru Ken Blanchard called it "Gung Ho!" It starts with believing that your work makes the world a better place and that shared values guide your plans and actions. Gung Ho! includes celebrating together, cheering one another on, and having fun at work.

We believe that at the Montana Historical Society we contribute to our state and our world. Whether or not we choose to celebrate our work together and have fun is up to us. And that's a choice that we make at MHS.

So when you visit the latest museum exhibit, *Dora's Laundry*;

About Us

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read the latest book from the Montana Historical Society Press, *Mining Childhood*; celebrate the Governor's Historic Preservation Awards; dig deep into family history in the Research Center; or enjoy a public program, I hope you feel the enthusiasm that we have for our work.

If you need further proof that the Montana Historical Society is a great place to work, just imagine the smell of pancakes smothered in butter and syrup first thing in the morning. ☼

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD: TREASURES FROM THE SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Magnifying What "Bugged" Montana

During the early part of the last century, scabies was a dread condition that bugged Montana's livestock industry. Mange mites caused the problem, and they were microscopically tiny and hard to identify.

Dr. W. J. Butler, Montana state veterinarian, was appointed in 1938 by the state department to represent the United States at the thirteenth International Vet-

erinary Congress in Paris. While there, he saw models of three mange mites that had been created by artist Les Fils D'Emile Dayrolle. Butler expressed his fascination with their detail.

When he got back to Montana, the models and their glass cases arrived as a gift to his office. Recently, the Department of Livestock donated the models to MHS so that people in the future won't



Now MHS really has what has been bugging you (actually, your livestock) in its collection.

have to scratch their heads wondering what mange mites looked like. ☼

Saddle Up, Pardner, for a Day on the Range at Grant-Kohrs

Wide-open spaces, the hard-working cowboy, his spirited cow pony, and vast herds of cattle are among the symbols of the American West. Once the headquarters of a 10-million-acre cattle empire, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in Deer Lodge preserves these symbols and commemorates the role of cattlemen in American history.

Johnny Grant had the main house built in 1862 and used it as a trading post and headquarters for his ranching operations. In 1866, Grant sold the house to Conrad Kohrs, who later became known as the "cattle king" in Montana.

Today, the house and its original furnishings are preserved intact,

along with the bunkhouse, blacksmith shop, horse barns, cattle sheds, and other outbuildings dating as far back as the 1860s. Cattle also continue to graze on the lush grasses of the ranch.

The ranch can bustle with activities or seem quiet. Tours of the main ranch house are offered year-round. Other ranger-led activities, such as chuck wagon programs, cowboy talks, blacksmith demonstrations, hands-on ranger choice programs, and wagon tours, are offered seasonally. For kids, there are junior ranger booklets, roping lessons, and visiting with the horses, cows, and chickens. The ranch also has seven miles of walking trails.



A visit to the Grant-Kohrs ranch near Deer Lodge will "get your cowboy on."

The ranch is open daily free to the public except for Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. Hours are 9:00–5:30 Memorial Day to Labor Day and 9:00–4:30 the rest of the year. 🌟

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

Jeff Malcomson: Voice of Reason for Government and Politics

Since Jeff Malcomson came to the Montana Historical Society in 2005 as government records archivist, he has used his knowledge of the vast government records in the MHS collection to encourage people to learn more about their history.

"I see the past as complex," he said. "When I see an issue today, I think about what period it was most like in the past and how that could apply to today. Of course, it isn't that simple."

Based on his research, Malcomson said that the biggest changes in government came in the 1920s and 1930s. "There were lots of national programs happening, and state, county, and local government had to match what was being done on the federal level," he said.

In 2008, Malcomson and his colleagues launched the County History Initiative to help local gov-



Jeff Malcomson takes government seriously. Here, he is dressed as Governor Samuel V. Stewart for a reenactment program.

ernments, museums, and libraries use records and other archives to make county centennial celebrations more meaningful and interesting for the public. From 1911 to 1925, twenty-eight counties

were created in Montana, bringing the total to fifty-six counties.

"We learned from them and they learned from us; it was a reciprocal thing for sure," he said. "Out of that we have developed relationships with them that we continue to build on."

As he learns more from government records, Malcomson said he has noticed a "vacuum" in using them to interpret and understand history. "It takes a concerted effort, and much of that work hasn't been done," he said. "It really is a wide-open field when it comes to government history."

Malcomson grew up in southern California and received his bachelor's degree from Covenant College in Georgia and his master's in American West public history from Colorado State University. He and his wife, Andrea, have three children. 🌟



Helen Clarke was met with resistance from tribes as an agent of the Indian Service sent to allocate tribal lands to individual tribal members. She is the woman standing by the wagon talking to Native Americans.

Helen Clarke (cont. from p. 1)

Historical Society fields many requests from media and others for information on Montana's groundbreaking women, such as Jeannette Rankin, who was the first woman elected to Congress.

As we researched women in history, an article on Clarke in MHS's *Montana The Magazine of Western History* reminded us of the truly groundbreaking role she played in state history.

Her father, Malcolm Clarke, and mother, Coth-co-co-na, sent Helen east, where she received a classical education at a convent school in Cincinnati. She returned to Montana in the mid-1860s and joined her family on a ranch north of Helena.

Helen moved to Minneapolis and later to New York, where she enjoyed a brief but successful career as an actress. In 1875, she returned to Montana and was welcomed back by her father's old friend Wilbur Fisk Sanders, who was one of the founders of the Montana Historical Society.

She became a teacher in Helena, but she endured whispered prejudice because of her Piegan heritage.

In 1882, Helen ran for Lewis and Clark County superintendent of schools and won. Alice Nichols of Meagher County also was elected

superintendent of schools that year, making them the first two women elected to public office in the state. Despite her success, ugly stories about her "mixed blood" continued, and in 1889 Helen again left Montana.

In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison signed her commission to the U.S. Indian Service as an allotment agent for Native American lands. She was the second woman appointed as an allotment agent—and apparently the first and only person so named who was of Native American ancestry.

Throughout her life, mixed ancestry dogged her footsteps, and her time in the Indian Service was no exception. Many Native Americans saw allotting of tribal land to individuals as an attempt to cut them off from their heritage, and many resented Helen's involvement.

In 1903, Helen led a successful campaign to remove an Indian agent at the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana from office for his mistreatment of Native Americans. It cost her her job.

She also was fighting against prejudice against women in the job market. In an unsuccessful letter arguing to keep her job, Helen noted: "There is prejudice always at a woman holding any sort of position that pays."

History Conference "Gushing" with Excitement

This fall's fortieth annual Montana History Conference at the Mon-Dak Heritage Center in Sidney will focus on the history of the present oil boom taking place in eastern Montana.

"Boom and Bust: Extracting the Past" is the theme for the conference, which also will feature other interesting topics and tours September 19–21.

It is not too early to make your plans to attend, because the bustle of development taking place in Montana's oil patch is putting a premium on lodging. For more information or to register now, contact Kirby Lambert at 406-444-4741 or email klambert@mt.gov. MHS has reserved rooms for the event, but they are going fast. 🌟



Helen Clarke had the face of an actress and the heart of a fighter, and she needed both to live her groundbreaking life on the early Montana frontier.

Returning to Montana, Helen lived out her life at her home near what is now East Glacier, where she hosted guests such as Mrs. Issac Guggenheim, Mrs. George Vanderbilt, photographer Walter McClintock, and painters Julius Seyler and Joseph Henry Sharp. 🌟

Charlie Russell Joins Celebration of One Hundred Years of House History

Artists Charlie Russell, Edgar Paxson, and Ralph DeCamp joined members of the Montana House of Representatives in March to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first session held in the then new wing of the State Capitol.

House members honored history with a reenactment from the 1913 session with research assistance provided by MHS staff, including government records archivist Jeff Malcomson (see story on page 3).

The Chamber was decorated to reflect what it looked like one hundred years ago, and the House staff developed a script based on 1913 issues. Those on the floor dressed in clothing appropriate to the era.

Reenactors dressed for the parts of Russell, Paxson, and DeCamp. These artists' work still adorns the Capitol, including Russell's masterpiece *Lewis and Clark Meeting the Indians at Ross' Hole*.

The new wings of the Capitol were built in 1911 and 1912 and finished for the 1913 session. The Senate passed a resolution in 1913 thanking the three artists for their work in not only making the Capitol beautiful but also reflecting

the pride Montanans have in their state and culture.

The Montana Historical Society had a booth and display in the House lobby displaying historic photographs and other historic documents from the period, and MHS staff provided guided tours of the artwork in the Capitol. ☪



As he did in 1913, Charlie Russell let his masterpiece *Lewis and Clark Meeting the Indians at Ross' Hole* do the talking for him when he came back for the 100th anniversary of the House and his painting.

MHS Reading Big Again

Reading is essential to all knowledge, especially to history.

The MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program for the third time has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to tie the NEA's national Big Read project to books central to Montana history.

This year, MHS is providing copies of *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan* and study assistance to tie in with the NEA Big Read 2013 book, *My Ántonia*.

The MHS program also provides participating schools with visiting educators. Alan Weltzien of UM Western, who is an expert on the works of Willa Cather, author of *My Ántonia*, and MHS research historian Ellen Baumler, who edited

Girl from the Gulches, travel to the schools to work with students and others from the community.

In addition, MHS provides community support and outreach, including training teachers in how to use primary sources in research.

Schools and communities participating in the MHS Big Read project are Townsend, Harlowton, Rosebud, Ryegate, Sheridan, Thompson Falls, Twin Bridges, Missoula, and Bozeman.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in conjunction with Arts Midwest designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

For more information about the Big Read, please visit www.neabigread.org. ☪



Even the House pages dressed in period costume for the reenactment.

Preservationists Can Check SHPO Plans

The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office has updated the state preservation plan used as a guide to protecting and preserving Montana's special buildings and places.

The revised plan, "Preserving Montana: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan, 2013-2017," provides an overview of historic, archaeological, and traditional cultural properties in the state, as well as the organizations actively involved in their preservation.

In addition to identifying issues

and challenges, the plan discusses opportunities and success stories, like the efforts of the Montana Historical Society to bring attention to the Modernist architecture of the post-WWII era. Seven goals with objectives are presented to guide historic preservation in the state over the next five years.

The plan can be viewed online on the State Historic Preservation Office website at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/shpo. For a hard copy, contact SHPO at 406-444-7715. ☪

“My Dear Miss Ariss . . .” HISTORIC POSTCARD

COLLECTION ALREADY SENDING HISTORY HOME

It was like receiving a postcard in the mail that had been sent one hundred years earlier and lost in the dead letter file.

The Montana Historical Society Research Center is acquiring a collection of nearly 32,000 postcards dating from 1898 into the 1970s that carry images from Montana’s past—and also messages.

When an article with images from the collection appeared in the Great Falls newspaper, a person recognized the name “Miss Ariss” on one of the postcards and contacted the reporter, who passed the information on to the Research Center.



The “Miss Ariss” on this postcard, a tip from a newspaper reader, and the Canada address led the Research Center on a trip back in time.

Using the tip, the Research Center determined that the historic postcard was sent by Edith Long to Eliza Augusta Ariss. Long worked alongside Ariss as a nurse and administrator at the Deaconess Hospital in Great Falls for nearly thirty years. Ariss trained as a nurse in Toronto and was recruited by the Rev. William W. (Brother Van) Van Orsdel of the Methodist Church to move to Great Falls in 1902 to take over the failing Deaconess Hospital. Ariss acted as superintendent from 1902 until 1931, turning the hospital around.

Although she moved away from Canada, Ariss kept in close contact with her family there, returning often to visit. It is likely during one of these visits in 1906 that Long wrote this postcard to her close friend.

Ariss and Long both retired from the Deaconess Hospital, later moving to Long Beach, California. Ariss died in 1952 and was buried with great fanfare in Great Falls. Long died in 1945, and a room at



Mulvaney, B1-12, Great Falls-Sluice Boxes

the Deaconess Hospital was dedicated to her memory in 1948.

There is a touching note on the side of the postcard: “We remembered your birthday.” Now we remember “Miss Ariss” and her friend Edith.

The Society is still seeking donations to complete the acquisition of the postcard collection. If you want to donate, contact Susan Near at 406-444-4713 or email snear@mt.gov. ★

In Social Media—Not Medicine—Going Viral Is a Good Thing

An old photograph from the MHS collection, Facebook, and the Super Bowl set off a chain reaction that would have had any alchemist scratching his head.

Social media is becoming a big tool for MHS as we continue to look for new and better ways to spread the story of Montana and its heritage.

We are now streaming some of our programs and events on YouTube so that people across the state and the world can enjoy them. We also are blogging and posting on Pinterest, Twitter, and Flickr. Go to our home page at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org, and you can follow the links to connect with us.



This L. A. Huffman photo titled “The Hon-yocker” from the MHS collection starred in the Super Bowl and on our social media network. (981-176)

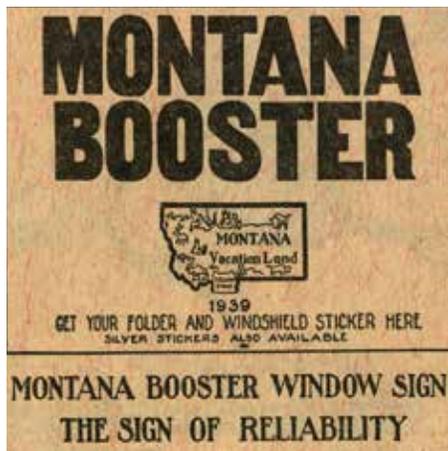
Even if you are a diehard believer in paper, you have to admit that social media has a place in modern communication.

With a simple post of a photo on our Facebook page and the words “Did you see Paul Harvey’s tribute to farmers during the Super Bowl? Like if you think farmers deserve our thanks,” we reached 127,000 people.

The Huffman photo from our collection that was used on the Facebook page touched the hearts of many people, obviously at least 127,000. Check out our social media network, and catch the latest “viral” yourself! ★

Give a Boost to Your Donation!

The Montana Historical Society depends on your support to provide quality publications, programs, experiences, and exhibits to a wide variety of audiences all year long. Wouldn't it be great to be able to



double—or even triple—your gift? Matching gifts are an easy way to leverage more from your charitable contribution. Thousands of companies across the United States (and right here in Montana) match their employees' gifts to nonprofits. Some even match contributions made by their retirees. Ask your employer if your company or parent corporation offers a matching gift program. If it does, contact the personnel officer and request a copy of the matching gift form. Complete the form and send it to us along with your donation. We'll take care of the rest.

Does your employer offer a matching gifts program? If so, let us know so we can add them to our

A few businesses that offer matching gift programs:

Bank of America
First Interstate Bank
IBM
Plum Creek
Thrivent Financial
Boeing
Home Depot
Macy's
PPL Montana
Wells Fargo

list. Contact Susan Near, Development and Marketing Officer, at 406-444-4713 or snear@mt.gov. And, as always, thank you for your support! ☀

We're Here for You—in All Ways

BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR REBECCA BAUMANN

Spring is in bloom, and the kids are eager for summer vacation. Almost daily, we welcome groups of students from across Montana. Vacationers are hitting the roads to visit the museum, and many members are coming to research genealogy and Montana history. When folks come to visit, we are always delighted to talk with them and help them in any way.

Even though many of you do not live in Helena or are currently living out of state or abroad, you can still access almost all of your benefits through the mail, or you can access information via the computer or over the phone. We continue to make progress on digitizing research materials to be placed on the Internet through the Montana Memory Project. You can also shop from the Museum Store online at <https://app.mt.gov/store/cart?storeID=mhsonline>.

As a member of the Montana Historical Society, the benefits you receive include this quarterly

newsletter, the Montana Historical Society calendar, the quarterly *Montana The Magazine of Western History* magazine, admission to our Museum, two research requests, and a 15% discount in the Museum Store.

Please keep us in mind when you are planning for your next gift-giving opportunity! A membership is a wonderful gift to give—even if your friend or family member lives in another location. ☀

Museum Store Can Help You "Get Lost in Montana"



The Montana Office of Tourism has authorized MHS as an official outlet for T-shirts, travel mugs, and other items that carry the new "Get Lost in Montana" logo. Stop in or call store manager Rod Coslet toll-free at 1-800-243-9900 to order.

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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The Montana Historical Society welcomes not only national but also international visitors to tell them the Montana story. The members of the Japanese delegation to Governor Steve Bullock’s inauguration took time out from their busy schedule to tour Montana’s Museum. The delegation was here to honor Bullock and to promote cultural, education, and business exchanges with Montana. In a letter sent by Consul General of Japan Kiyokazu Ota after the visit, he wrote: “We rejoiced at the sight of Japanese items displayed at the museum. They helped us see clearly, the long-standing relations between Montana and Japan.” The photo on the left shows the delegation in the Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell art with MHS program specialist Deb Mitchell. The photo on the right shows Ota having fun with MHS historical specialist Martha Kohl in the new *And the Bride Wore* exhibit.

We are thankful for our members!