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**Montana**  
**Historical Society**

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES'  
HERITAGE KEEPER & HERITAGE GUARDIAN AWARD**

**NOMINATION FORM**

**ABOUT THE NOMINEE**

Name of Nominee Joseph (Ray) Haffley  
Address 153 Shirley Way, Anaconda, MT  
Phone Numbers (406) 797-3557  
E-mail sharonhaffley957@yahoo.com

**ABOUT YOU**

In case we need more information about your nominee.

Nomination Submitted by Sharon Haffley  
Address 153 Shirley Way, Anaconda, Mt  
Phone Number (406) 797-3557  
E-mail sharonhaffley957@yahoo.com  
Date Nomination Submitted February 11, 2019

**Return** completed form, narrative & support documents by \_\_\_\_\_, 201  
to: **Heritage Keeper Awards Chair**  
**Montana Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 201201, 225 North Roberts**  
**Helena, MT 59620-1201**

Or e-mail to: Joy Lewis, [jlewis@mt.gov](mailto:jlewis@mt.gov), or FAX to: 406-444-2696.  
For information call: 406-444-1799

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES'  
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1. Ray has contributed much to Montana history. I have enclosed an updated resume that includes work, projects and involvement in the Anaconda area. Some examples include the Smelter City Viewing Stand, the Historic Figures at Kennedy Common, and a recently published book by Farcountry Press are a few of the contributions by Ray. The figures at both the Smelter City Viewing Stand (the Smeltermen, Railroad Engineer and Miner) and the local Historic Figures at the Kennedy Common (Baseball Player, Skaters, and Marble Players) represent much of the history of the Common. His book provides a rich history of Anaconda, its leaders/citizens and colorful stories of the surrounding area.
2. Ray has many strengths that have impacted Anaconda's history. For example, he has promoted Anaconda's identity through community volunteer projects. He has involved students in the Montana History class at Anaconda High in various sections of his book. Over time, he has also written various articles in local papers focussing on the promising history of Anaconda. A few examples include preserving the historic Montana Hotel and promoting Anaconda's potential in business and recreation.
3. During the course of our marriage since 1978, he has been active both in school and community betterment. I have enclosed an updated resume, that summarizes his dedication to Montana education and his degree of commitment. In 2002, he was awarded the Good Neighbor Award that helped to promote the positive aspects of Anaconda and the surrounding area. Since 2002, he has continued to promote the Anaconda's rich history and prommising future
4. I am attaching supporting documents which include an overview of projects featured in the Anaconda Leader Newspaper. A copy of the Good Neighbor Award in 2002 is from a copper plaque hanging on our basement office wall is included. Finally, I have included a book cover copy of his recent Historic Book on Anaconda from 1945 ± 2020.

## **Joseph (Ray) Haffey**

153 Shirley Way  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
(406) 797-3557

### **EDUCATION**

University of Montana, Missoula, MT  
Special Education and School Psychologist Spring 1982  
University of Montana-Western, Dillon, MT  
M.S. in Education/Counseling Spring 1978  
Montana State University-Eastern, Billings, MT  
B.S. in Education (History/Social Studies) Spring 1969  
Anaconda Central High School May 1965

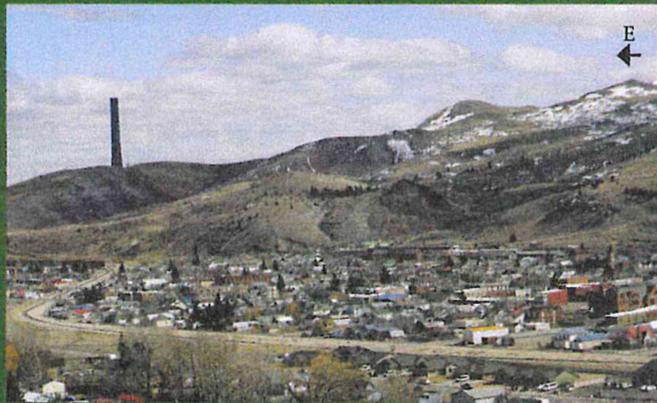
### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT, WORK ABILITIES AND AUTHOR**

- 2018 Book Anaconda, Montana – Goosetown & West of Main – 1945+2020
- 2000-Present  
Member of Anaconda Historic Resource Board - 2018+  
Promoting Historical features with Anaconda Project Facilitators.  
Authored local newspaper articles on Montana Hotel, etc.  
Independent Contractor/Counselor - (Up to 2015, worked at Great Divide Education Services. Presently, working at Beaverhead Co. High School).  
2000-2008 Tech-Prep Consortium - University of Montana/Western:  
Visited schools and explained history/transition options.  
2005 MASP “School Psychologist of the Year”.  
Teacher for Assessment Class/UM-W Spring 2004.  
Helped assess some non-traditional UM-W students.  
Received Anaconda “Good Neighbor Award” in 2002.
- 1969-2000  
Roundup, Montana – History/Government teacher 1969-73.  
Anaconda School District – History Teacher/Counselor/School Psychologist.  
Social Studies, Special Ed. and Career Coordinator.  
Helped write transition objectives for the following grants:  
T.E.C. (Training Experience for Careers) - Special Ed.  
C.E.T.E. (Career Education Training Enterprise) - Economic Disadvantaged.  
C.O.R.E. (Career Occupation Readiness Education) - All students.  
S.W.A.P. (School-to-Work Anaconda Project) - Juniors/Seniors.

### **REFERENCES:**

<b>Bill Finnegan</b> 421 Willow Anaconda, MT (406) 563-5852	<b>Bob Meredith</b> 1313 W. Third Anaconda, MT (406) 563-2687	<b>Mike King</b> 2001 Washoe St. Anaconda, MT (406) 563-2722	<b>Gary Haverfield, Supt.</b> Beaverhead Co. High School 104 Pacific Dillon, MT (406) 683- 2361
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Anaconda, Montana is a historic city located on the edge of the Pintler Wilderness and full of recreational opportunities. It was founded by Copper King Marcus Daly because of its water potential to build the world's largest smelter for the copper industry in the late 1800s. *Goosetown and West of Main* depicts Anaconda's transitional history, Norman Rockwell's character and potential from 1945+/-2020. The variety of topics are a true insight into Anaconda's DNA.



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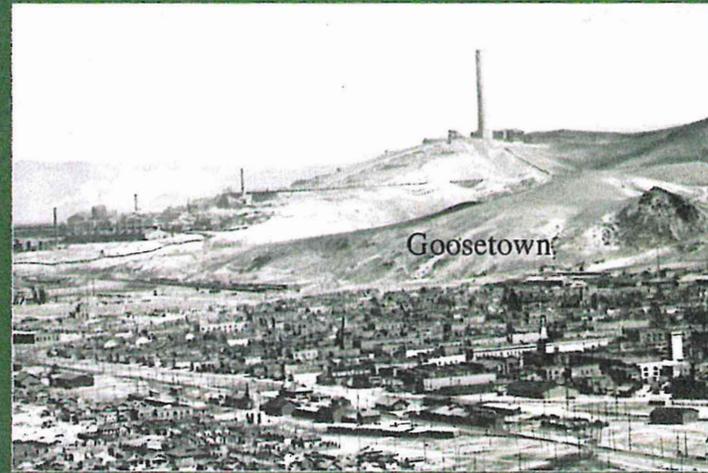
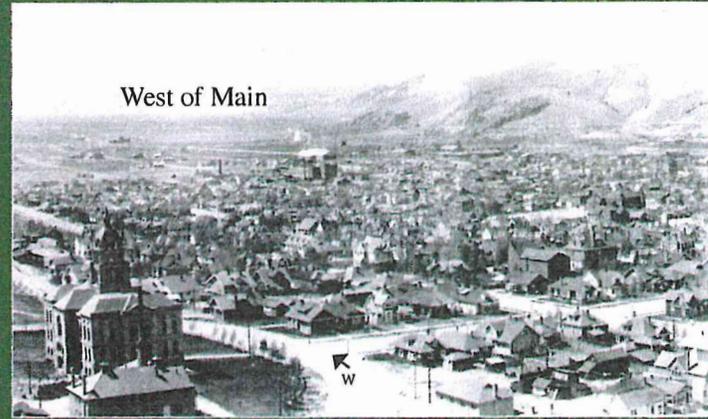
ANACONDA, MONTANA  
 GOOSETOWN AND WEST OF MAIN

J. RAY HAFFEY

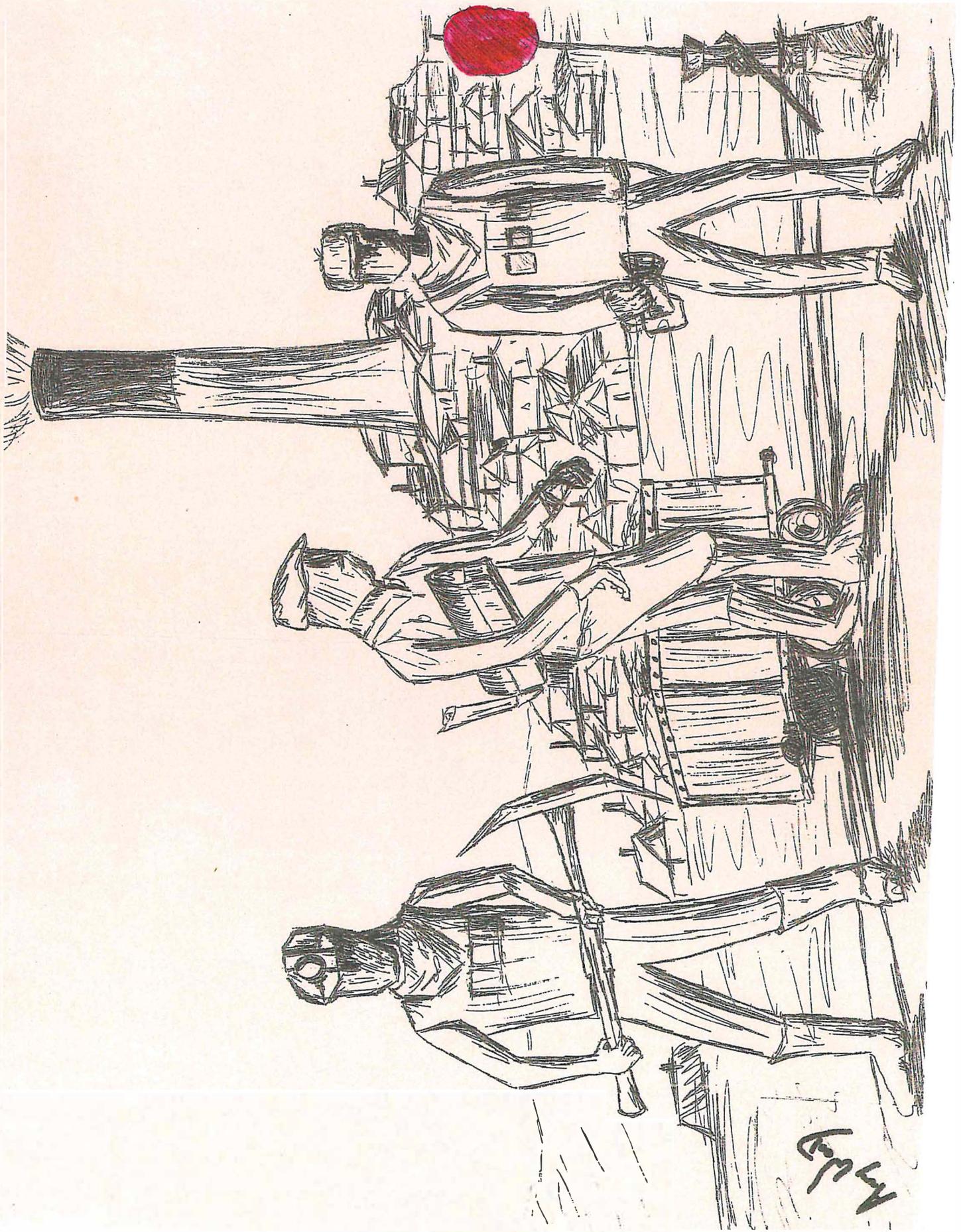
# ANACONDA, MONTANA

## GOOSETOWN AND WEST OF MAIN

### 1945 ± 2020



BY J. RAY HAFFEY



# Worker statues hearken back to industrial days

JAMES S. ROSIEN  
REPORTER

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A project that began seven years ago to honor the workers of Anaconda's industrial past has come to fruition, with the installation of the third and final statue at the Anaconda Smelter Stack State Park.

The statue, dubbed "Rocky Miner," joins "Joe Smeltermen" and "Lorry Switchman" – statues honoring workers at the Anaconda Smelter and

Reduction Works and the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific Railway – who were crafted by Anaconda High School welding students with help from several individuals and companies in Anaconda and Butte.

Along with the statues, a dedication written by Ray Haffey, the project's developer and coordinator, will decorate Montana's smallest state park, located at 100 Anaconda Smelter Rd.

The dedication reads: "Marcus Daly was

instrumental in building the Anaconda Smelter and Reduction Works in 1883. Along with [George] Hearst, [James Ben Ali] Haggin and [Lloyd] Tevis, financial backing was gained. As well as engineers who provided the design, the heart and lifeblood of the smelter's success was due to three categories of workers: Miners, Smelter Workers and Railroad Workers. These three metal figures best represent the labor that built the copper industry. This historic Smelter Viewing Stand is a tribute to all of those that were instrumental in Marcus Daly's vision."

Also involved in the project besides AHS welding students and their instructor, Ryan Pesanti, were Mike Kovacich, Bob Meredith, the late Lorry Thomas, Bob Andreoli, Tom and Rita McLaren, the late Ken Cook and Derek Cook, Ed Bartoletti, Kevin Heany, Alex Woods, Larry Huffman, Marty Henderson, Mick Nazer, AFFCo, S&N Concrete and Vermeire Graphics.

# Railroad switchman joins smelterman

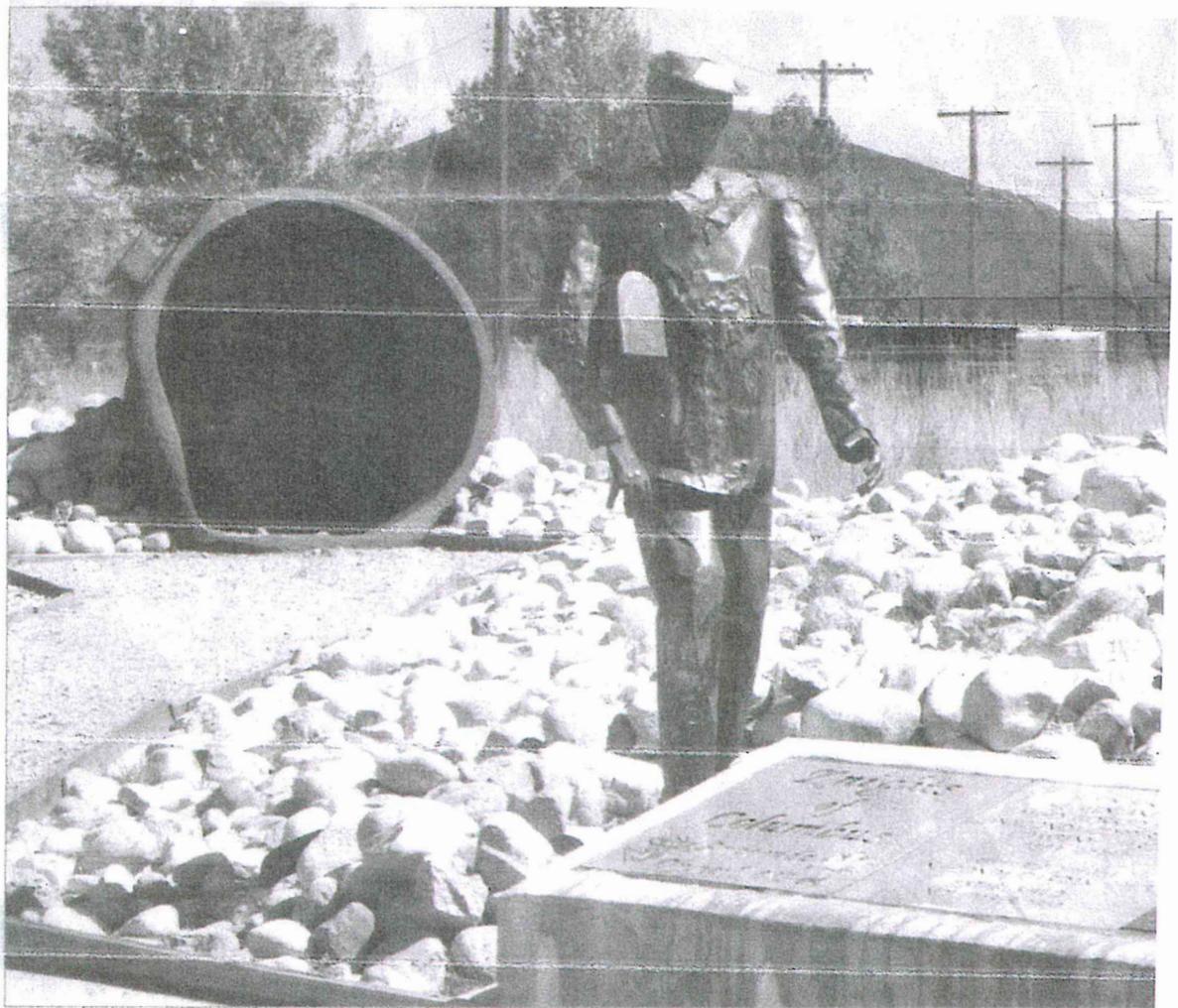
*Kathie R. Miller*  
*Leader Editor*

A railroad switchman has joined the smelterman at the Short Stack interpretive site east of Benny Goodman Park. Adding a miner will be the next phase of the project," said Lorry Thomas, who placed the metal sculpture at Montana's newest state park earlier this month. "Two down, one to go." Helena High School students in Ryan Pesanti's welding class created the railroad worker with help from Vern Cook and Mike Kovacich. Projects like this give the students good experience and a chance to build something in their community that they will be proud to show their grandchildren in 50 years," Pesanti said. Community service projects are important for all of us."

See *SWITCHMAN* on page 3



Railroad retirees Vern Cook, left, and Lorry Thomas stand next to the railroad switchman metal sculpture that was recently added at the Short Stack interpretive site east of Benny Goodman Park. Leader photo by Kathie R. Miller



Stage one of a display that will feature a smelterman, above, a railroad worker and a miner has been installed at Anaconda Smokestack State Park. The smelterman took several decades of planning and work by a number of welders and artists to come to fruition. Leader photo Kathleen Gilluly

## Working men commemorated in display at Anaconda Smoke Stack State

*Kathleen Gilluly*  
Leader reporter

A project that began as one person's brainchild long ago has been tasked out and morphed into a community effort involving a number of different people and entities. It's taken several years, but one-third of the project honoring Anaconda's past has been completed and is on view at the Anaconda Smoke Stack State Park across from the Benny Goodman Park.

A welded steel smelterman has been installed there and eventually will be joined by like

sculptures of a railroad worker and a miner. The trio will be a great addition to the smoke stack in recognizing Anaconda's history, according to one of the project coordinators, Ray Haffey.

"It's kind of a vision in progress," he said. "But, it's finally on the way to becoming a reality."

Planned years ago as a tribute to the working men who made Anaconda the booming industrial center it once was, the original plan was to put the sculptures where the Davidson Building that now houses Beyond Necessities sits.

At the time, urban renewal

was all the rage and a number of historic buildings were lost due to the trend of modernization which meant razing old structures, Haffey said. Luckily the building was saved, but that put the planned display in indefinite hold.

At one point during the construction of the three sculptures, a fascimile of the three sculptures was set in Marlene Lewis's yard. Those years, the plans were to make the sculptures beyond size: 15 feet tall.

The entire display would have taken up an area the size of about 1,000 square feet.

See SMELTERMEN on page 3

## SMELTERMEN

from Page 1

The completed smelterman sculpture is an imposing sight at lifesize, and because of its weight and bulk it was quite a job getting it installed.

"We have one of those cars and railroad tracks we'll be putting up soon too," said Bob Meredith who has worked with Haffey on the project for several years. "That will add a lot to the scene."

Besides Haffey and Meredith, high school student, Anthony Wood has contributed his time as an artist by creating a drawing of what the planners envision.

"We passed the actual welding around for several years," Haffey said. "At first we had students at the College of Technology in Butte working on it, then it went to Job Corps, then to the Powell County High School and finally it came back to Anaconda."

Back in Anaconda, the project was brought to Ryan Pesanti, Anaconda High School's welding teacher.

"Sometimes I feel like running when I see Ray Haffey coming," Pesanti said Thursday from the shop in the new Vo-Ed center. "I never know what he's bringing me, but it always entails work. For this project he brought me the legs. My students were able to finish it up with the help of Jay Laber."

Indian artist Jay Laber spent a week in residence working with

AHS students on a variety of projects last spring. The multi-talented member of the Blackfeet Tribe is known for his welded sculptures. A teacher at the Salis Kootenai College on the Flathead Reservation (K'tanaxa), Laber helped the students by showing them some techniques for sculpture and working with them until the figure was complete.

"To build the smelterman, my advanced welding class had the opportunity to finish this statue," Pesanti said. "It was interesting looking into the history of the smelter. We looked at many pictures to find the look we were seeking. It is really fascinating that people could tell what profession someone was in by the hat they wore and how they carried their lunchbox."

Pesanti said he always has students who want to work on the more artsy projects and that he's sure he'll have students interested in building the two remaining statues.

In addition to students, artists, teachers and organizers, Haffey said the entire community deserves recognition.

"We couldn't have made it this far without the help of the great people of Anaconda," he said. "People here are wonderful to work with."

For information of how you can help with the project, call Haffey at 491-8578.

# 'Man on a mission' gets projects done

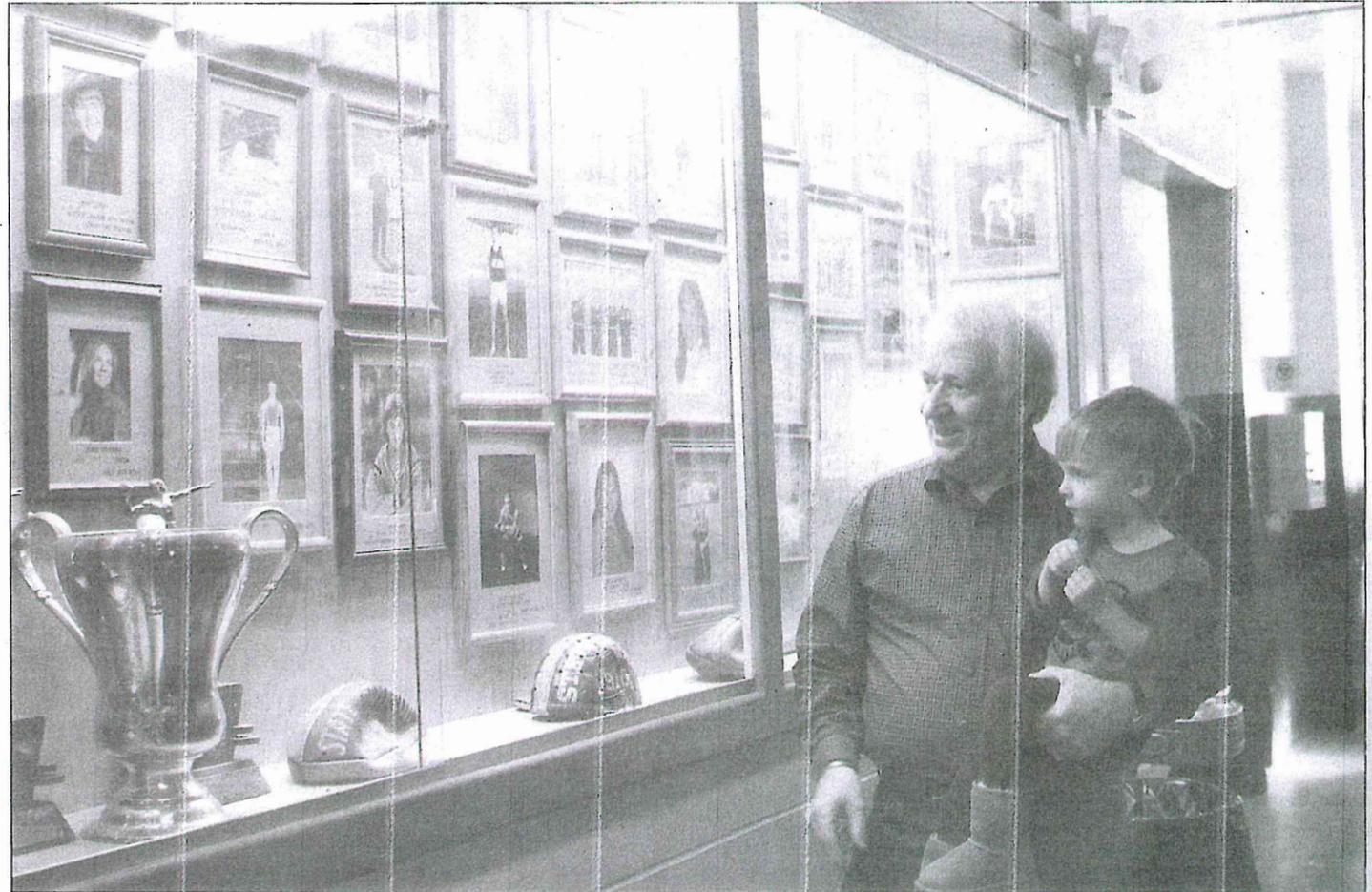
*Kathie R. Miller  
Leader Editor*

For more than four decades, Ray Haffey has spearheaded numerous community and school projects aimed at bettering Anaconda, but he is always quick to credit those he works with.

"I always say, 'I'm on a mission - I should have been a missionary,' he said laughing. "I have million dollar ideas, but only common 'cents' for backing. I get a lot of support from others. I couldn't get anything done if it weren't for their help."

Haffey was born in Germany while his dad was serving in the Air Force.

"My mom was a war bride, and I was probably 6 weeks old when they brought me to Anaconda," he said. "I went to St. Paul's School and graduated from Anaconda



Leader photo: Kathie R. Miller

*Ray Haffey shows his 2-year-old grandson Fen Yerkich the trophy case he helped build for the Memorial Gymnasium more than 30 years ago.*

**See HAFFEY on page 7**

# HAFFEY

from Page 6

Central High School in 1965.”

After earning his bachelor’s of science degree in history, social studies and science education from Eastern Montana College, he taught in Roundup for four years before returning to Anaconda to teach.

“When Central closed, Anaconda High was ready to move from A to AA,” Haffey said. “Ron Hatcher was the athletic director and Mike O’Leary the superintendent. They wanted me to start a gymnastics program here.”

The gymnastics program soon became a popular sport at not only high school students but for hundreds of area children through the city’s Recreation Department.

“Maureen Wallace, who was a sophomore at the time, made it easy to get the program going,” he said. “She competed on her own for AHS as a sophomore without a team. But she competed on a team by the time she was a junior.

We had a good foundation for the gymnastics program within three years.”

Maureen went on to become one of the top gymnasts in the state and hundreds of Anaconda students began participating.

In 1976, AHS’s John Adams won state. Two years later Steve Boyer went on to Eastern Montana College, where he was a national champion on the rings for the NAIA and NCAA and Dave Colbert was an all-around champion in the Western Division for AA schools.

“The program lasted into the late ‘80s, and then got closed down because of liability concerns,” Haffey said.

In 1980, when it was announced the smelter would shut down, then principal Elmer Carosone asked Haffey to build Copperhead Square out of a dirt parking lot at the old Central School building, which was being used by Anaconda High.

“We wanted to do something

positive for the community,” he said. “I couldn’t have done it without Babe Aspholm and Shine Murphy, our carpentry and welding teachers.”

Next he built the trophy case, which runs along the wall as one walks into the Memorial Gymnasium.

“They used to keep all the trophies in the high school cafeteria, where hardly anyone saw them,” Haffey said. “I thought they should be kept at the gym, so I put together the project, which I couldn’t have done it without Leonard Hoscheid, Bill Sullivan and the Anaconda Job Corps.”

Haffey’s next project was for the community – the bronze deer statues at Durston Park.

“Anaconda Project Facilitators – Carl Nyman, Mike King, Chris Connor and Kelly Richards – were all on the committee and Susan Lanes was the head of the Planning Department and she helped get us a grant,” he said.

That project led to placing

welcome signs at both the west and east entrances to Anaconda.

“AFFCO made the metal cutouts with skiers, golfers and elk on the east-end sign and sheep, a fisherman and backpackers on the west,” Haffey said. “Joe Jordan provided the lime quarry rock at the west end and black slag at the east. Leonard Hoscheid did the rock work and Colbert provided the electrical.”

His next project was a nod to Anaconda’s rich history by placing metal figures – a smelterman, a railroader and miner at the Short Stack Interpretive Site across from Benny Goodman Park.

“It would never have happened without Ryan Pesanti and his welding classes,” Haffey said.

Next up was moving the county’s archery range to a location off Cable Road about a half-mile west of town.

“Lorry Thomas and the

**HAFFEY concludes on page 8**

## HAFHEY from Page 7

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Anaconda Sportsman's Club and John Leo Sladich and the Job Corps made it possible," he said.

Haffey then helped with the Copper Ladles at Anaconda's east entrance by getting the cement curbing for the project, which was directed by the Anaconda Garden Club.

"Colbert worked on the power and water for the ladles," he said.

Haffey coordinated the Anaconda Central High School Class of '65 raising money to place a metal "Graduation Matters" sign on the side of Fred Moodry Intermediate School as part of their 50th class reunion.

Haffey began his latest project - adding full-size metal silhouettes around the outskirts of Kennedy Common - last summer. The first of which was a baseball player placed near where home plate once was when the county-owned park was used as a baseball field. Figures of children playing marbles will be added at the corner of Hickory and Third

streets in the spring.

Other figures will include, skiers, a track star, ice skaters, etc. to represent Anaconda's history of outdoor recreation.

"Larry Sladich, Bill Finnegan and Bob Meredith are helping me," he said.

The next project he plans to work on is adding a concession stand and Hall of Fame room to the northwest corner of Memorial Gymnasium.

"All we would have to add is two walls to enclose the empty space," he said.

Currently, Haffey is writing a book about Anaconda's rich history from 1945 to present.

"I have a mystery idea in the book that - all I had to do was plant a seed," he said. "I hope to have the book done soon."

In the meantime, Haffey is always available to support to community and school projects.

"I am always willing to lend a hand to get something good done for Anaconda," he said.

# *Then and Now: Skaters on the Common*





**From left:  
Nick Miller,  
Fen Yerkich**



**From left:  
Pat Connors,  
Jim Pollock,  
Dale Combs,  
Bill Sullivan**



**From left:  
Nathan Schafer,  
Marty & Kay Heaney**

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## Moving forward with optimism in Anaconda

**O**n Monday, Jan. 20th, a front-page article appeared in The Montana Standard regarding Anaconda's

**J. RAY  
HAFFEY**

new possible restoration of the Montana Hotel. The article gave an overview of the previous attempts to gain support and preserve the historic structure. Although not a member, I participated in an interesting discussion that occurred regarding the present restoration dilemma. The discussion was cautiously optimistic about the possibility of saving the historic structure.

Questions were asked about the intent to renovate the structure to its original grandeur or modify it to become a hub or focal point for the past and future. An open house was planned for early February to provide update status and gauge support.

Anaconda has a very rich history in the state of Montana. Some positive old and new development have occurred in the area such as the restoration of the Copper Village Art Center, maintenance of the Hearst Free Library and maintenance of the Washoe Theater. Some new developments include Discovery Ski Area, Old Works Golf, Fairmont Hot Springs, etc. The restoration of the Daly (First Montana Bank), Donovan's, the Electric Light Building (new Brewery), Copperopolis, the Schwartz/Lutey Building, the MacIntyre Building (AWARE), and the Club Moderne are some good examples of updating and maintaining the old for future use.

My point is that we need to save what is historically and economically viable as well as encourage new investment. Anaconda has a local envi-

ronment that is unmatched in recreation opportunities. The town has the potential to be more vibrant. Why not have historical development led by investment through economic development, which could include philanthropy? This will be realized through a combination of hard work, adequate capital and creative foresight. Whether it is the Montana Hotel or other old and new investments, public support and investment will determine Anaconda's future. As we move forward with cautious optimism, remember that working together and supporting willing investments will produce positive results!

J. Ray Haffey, Anaconda, is a retired history teacher/counselor (1969-2000), independent contractor-education specialist (2000-present) and community volunteer.

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**READERS SPEAK**

*MT Standard Mon. Jan 30 2017*

PRESENTED TO

Ray Haffey

2002 GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD

BY THE

Anaconda Chamber of Commerce

## Chamber awards

AWARDS, from page 1

to agree with Daniels' assertion that 25 years ago when the Najjirs decided to move, that "Russell Mountain, Lebanon's loss was Anaconda's gain."

Anaconda attorney Tim McKeon's "heroic deeds" during the Najjir family's ordeal were recognized when McKeon was presented with a Special Recognition Reward from the chamber. McKeon helped the Najjirs navigate the complex, frustrating world of organ transplants, and his "love and tenacity ultimately helped save Hassam's life," Daniels said.

The emotional recognition of the contributions of Fay Najjir and McKeon capped off the chamber's annual banquet in which a number of other individuals were also singled out for their contributions to the community and the chamber.

Ray Haffey was honored with the Good Neighbor Award for his tireless efforts to raise funds, organize and install the "Anaconda Welcomes You" landscaped greetings, featuring life-size wildlife silhouettes, at both ends of town, and the "deer

family" taking up residence at the corner of Park and Main.

Haffey said Anaconda Project Facilitators should share the award, and noted those projects are "just the tip of the iceberg," especially considering the "generous spirit of the people of Anaconda," who are always willing to help improve and enhance their home.

Just call attorney Ken Connors "Sparky" for the next year, since he was handed the Spark Plug Award, which goes to a chamber and community member who sparks action and inspires others to take action.

Gene Lutey won a Special Recognition Award. He's a familiar sight around town in the summer atop his riding lawnmower, going from one public patch of grass to the other and keeping them in fine trim.

Mark Austin, of Lutey's Furniture/Radio Shack, was named the Small Business Person of the Year. Folks called for a speech from Austin.

But he was too busy working, with many other volunteers, to help make 68<sup>th</sup> annual Anaconda Chamber of Commerce Banquet a success.