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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 Dean Hellinger

Address 136 North Dawn, Shelby, MT. 59474

Phone Numbers 406-432-2914

E-mail deanhellinger@mac.com

ABOUT YOU

In case we need more information about your nominee.

Nomination Submitted by Larry E. Munson

Address 100 Peterson Road, Shelby Montana, 59474

Phone Number 406-439-2182

E-mail larryjan@northern.net

Date Nomination Submitted 2-6-2019

Return completed form, narrative & support documents **by March 16, 2019**

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, or FAX to: 406-444-2696.
For information call: 406-444-1799

The MARIAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART of Shelby, Montana would like to nominate Dean Hellinger for the Montana Historical Society Heritage Keeper Awards.

Dean has been a long time volunteer & board member of the Marias Museum.

Among his many early accomplishments to the Museum was to compile a list of every rural school along with pictures for documentation from early homestead days (about 1910 until the 1940's) which are framed & displayed in the school room at the Museum, of which there were over 50 schools in Toole County.

Another big project that Dean did was to compile a monthly calendar with pictures of the early Schools of Toole County in 1992 of which the Marias Museum was the recipient, which were very big sellers.

Dean has worked almost non stop for the betterment of the Marias Museum volunteering hundreds of hours doing numerous displays, especially preserving History with pictures , which are on display at the Museum. The pictures include about every thing that happened in Toole from early days until the present.

Dean works every Tuesday as a volunteer & is available for anyone that wants to share stories or pictures of past times & events of Toole Co. He then compiles any pictures received to the picture display, which is massive for the public to view.

After the Museum built an annex to the present building, he was instrumental in planning & completing the displays that are in a 50' X 100' building which include separate sections that have Radios, Military, Railroad, Religious, automobile, truck depicting a homesteader leaving a homestead with the meager possessions that they had in the Depression era.

Dean is also a driving force behind our open Houses that we have twice a year, He always has good suggestion's for the themes of these programs, Christmas Gingerbread contest & summer Ice Cream Social with a speaker & Music that is for the enjoyment of the public & taxpayers of Toole Co.

Dean is always working working tirelessly to further the History & preserve it for future generations.

Where ever Dean goes he seems to always have a camera along to capture happenings or events like anything to do with nature, weather etc.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this recommendation for Dean Hellinger to be recognized with the Montana Historical Society's Heritage Keeper Award.

I met Dean about 5 years ago when I first visited the Marias Museum of Art and History here in Shelby. I came to get research information about a local landmark, and I left about 3 hours later, having my information, but also knowing I had met a new friend. Beyond our friendship, Dean's value to our local and state history is nearly without measure.

An octogenarian that doesn't slow down, I have climbed one butte with him, and will climb another one with him this spring! Dean is best known for his photography, much of which is local to the Golden Triangle area of Montana, and he gets those pictures posted most everywhere. Facebook, sure, but also the local Shelby Promoter newspaper and the Great Falls Tribune.

Historically speaking, Dean has been an important figure in our area. He has lived a full, exciting life from World War 2 until the present day, Dean has been a valuable asset for understanding the transition from those early homesteader days in Montana through the modernization of even our rural society. At one point in Toole County there was a school for every mile along Highway 2, Dean documented each of those schools, and we have a great display in the museum as a result. He collects, compiles, and most importantly shares the old black and white photos of Montana's past. Dean's love of photography has been a great asset to us all.

Ultimately the greatest asset a community can have is presence. Every Tuesday throughout the year, and then for every special event, Dean helps out at the Museum. Dean has the cheery demeanor and the knowledge to paint a picture of Toole County history for any patron, but he also puts history into action. Simply ask, and Dean will escort you to historical spots in Toole County. Bears Den, the F bridge, but also the location of the Baker Massacre. His work ethic and historical knowledge is unparalleled in Toole County, but Dean's most important attribute is his willingness to share. Without people like Dean Hellinger the history of Montana, and Toole County, might be lost, instead it is shared and is filled with color and life.

Thank you for your consideration.

J.B. Chandler
955 Turner Ave
Shelby, MT 59474
Museum Board Member

Larry and Hazel Munson

From: "Denis Freeland" <freeland55@live.com>
Date: Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:01 AM
To: "Denis Freeland" <freeland55@live.com>; "Larry Munson" <larryjar@northerntel.net>
Subject: Letter

As community members before we were museum board members we have seen what Dean has contributed to the community in many ways.

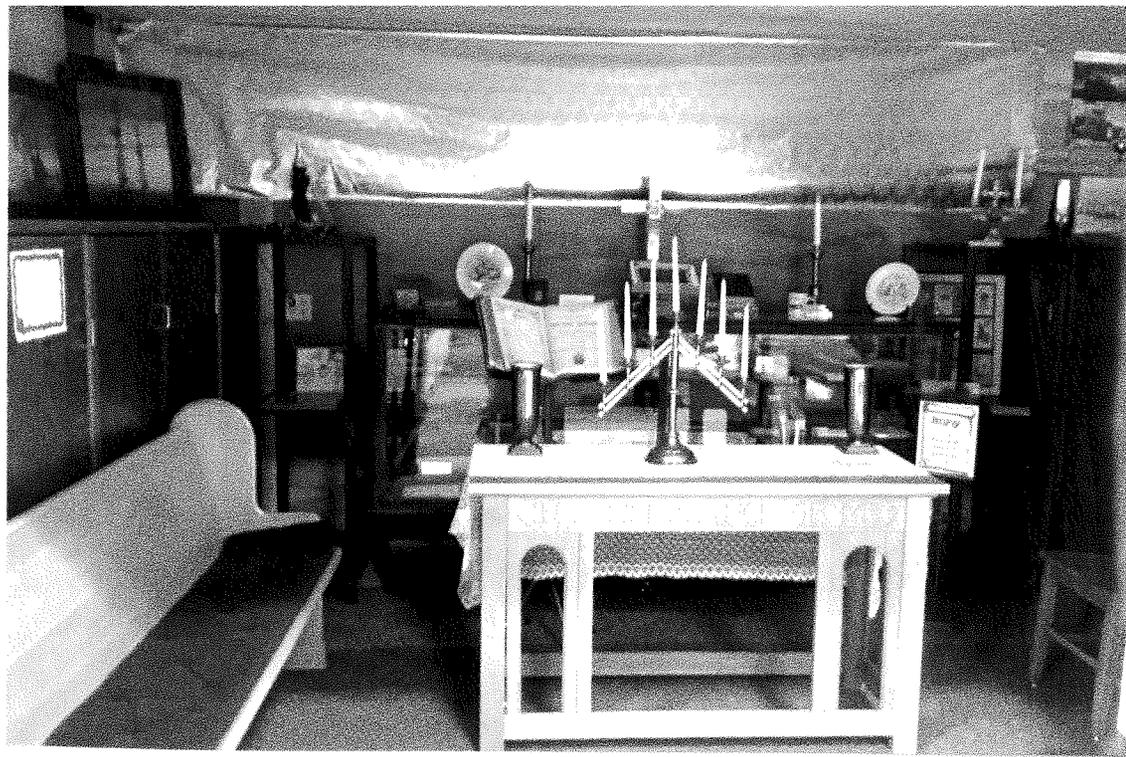
He has photographed for posterity many historical buildings through out our county and preserved these photo's in our museum.

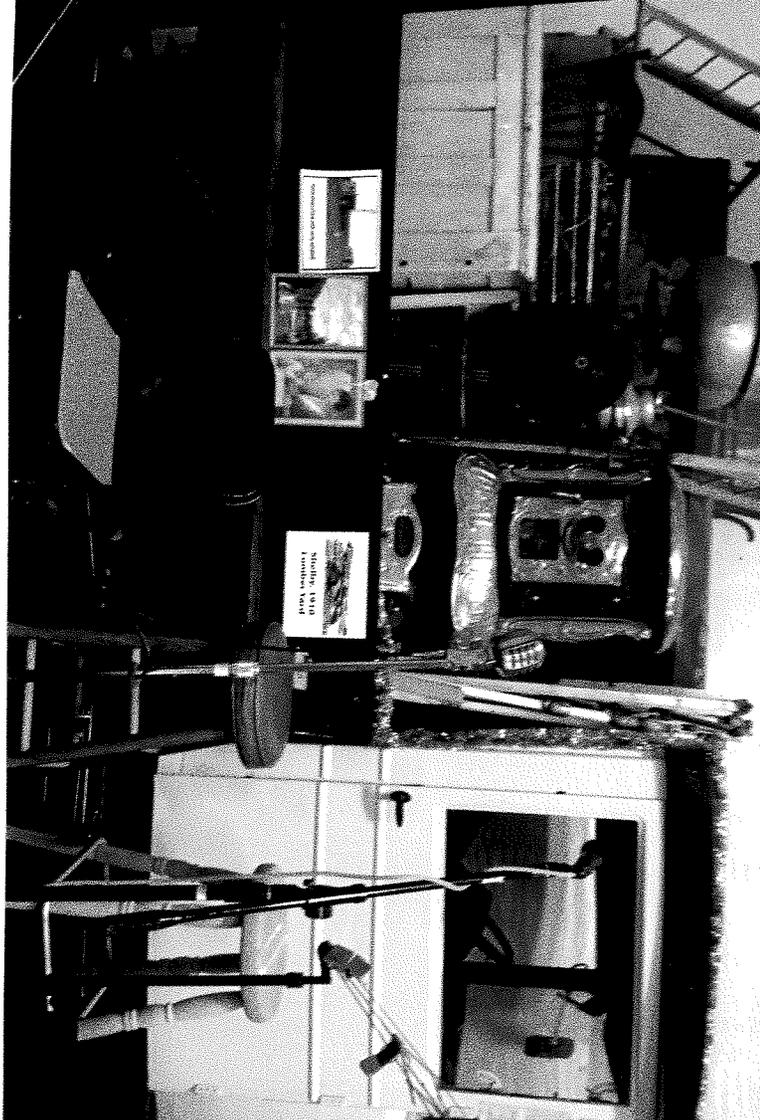
He arranges displays and people are very proud to have their historical articles so well preserved.

As board members we have come to a real appreciation of all his work and knowledge toward our wonderful museum. We are proud of the treasures, of his devotion to the history of Toole County and surrounding area will be treasured forever in our museum.

Denis & Annette Freeland

2/28/2019

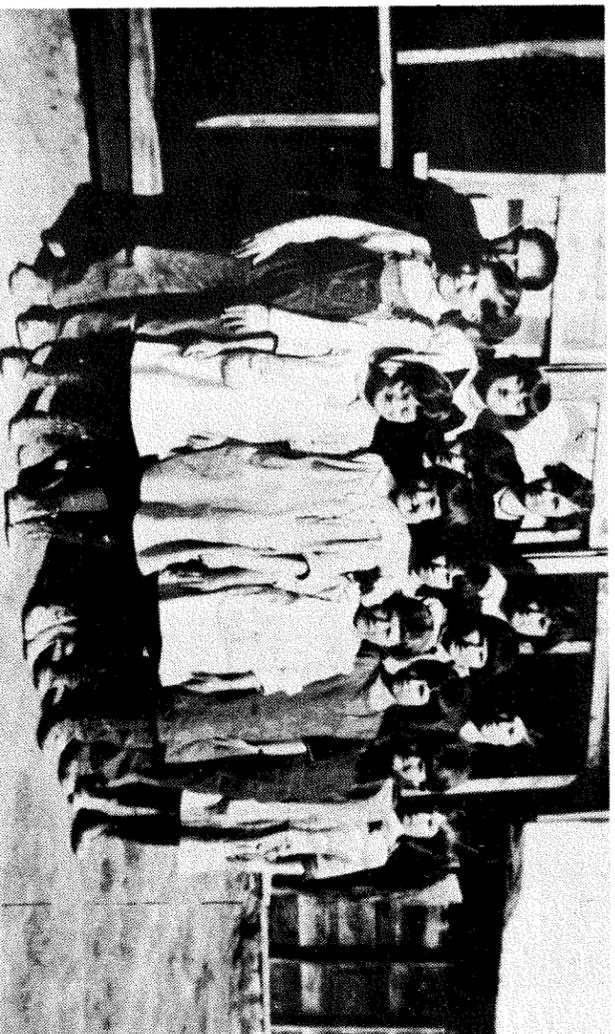




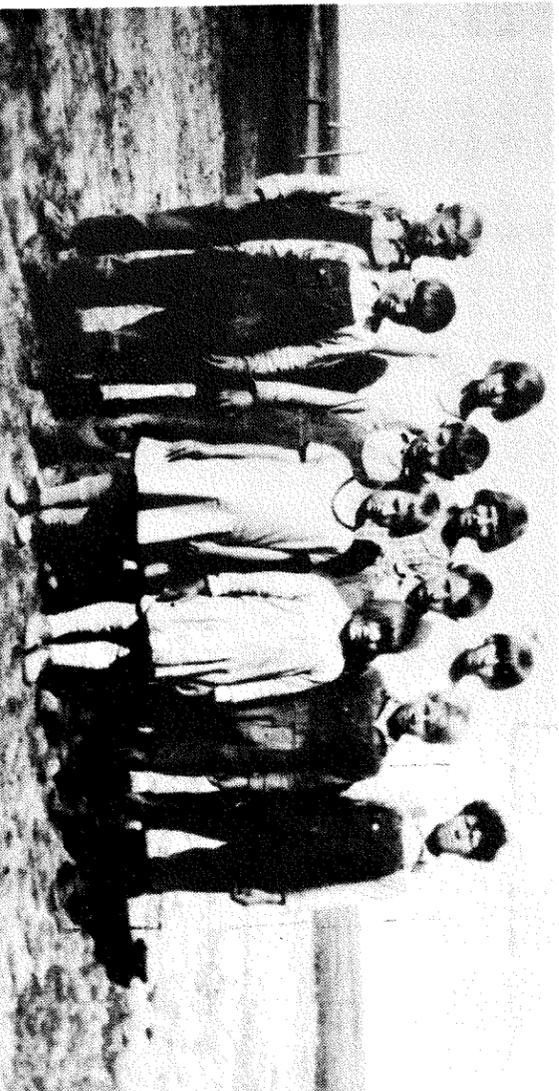


Dean has Displayed 1000's of Pictures

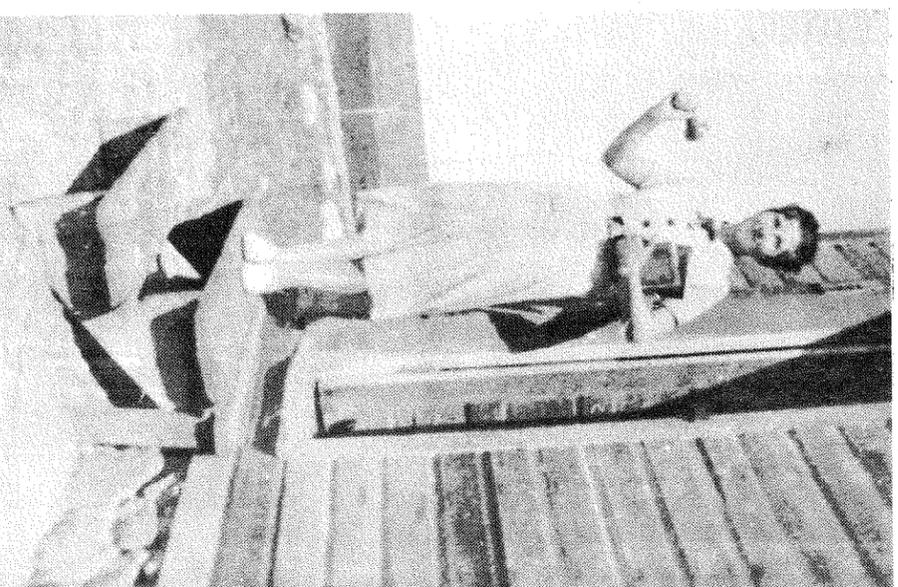
1992 Doole School Treasurers



Riverside School—1927. Back row: May Coleman, Arella Freithelm, Margaret Coleman, Dorothy Tribble; front row: Edgar Scholtz, Ruth Scholtz, Grace Tribble, Gladys Scholtz, Treva Tribble, Susan Scholtz, Elma Krafft, Marie Tribble, Don Krafft, Edna Krafft.



Tiel School—1930. Front: Doris Childers, Eida Kinyon. Second row: Ray Kinyon, Elmer Childers, Riley Childers, Dale Kinyon; back row: Bud Mondy, Hazel Mondy, June Kinyon, Effie Mondy, Clare Kinyon.



Sunnyside School—1934. Teacher, Hazel Benda ringing bell.