



THE RALLY



Volume 44, Number 3 — Fall 2020

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

By Matt Lautzenheiser, Executive Director

As the days get colder and we look forward to the end of smoke season here in Western Montana, we continue to move forward with some major projects at Fort Missoula. The Pole Barn over our Willamette Locomotive #7 is complete and looks great. **Larry Ingold, Mark Buck, and Scott Keuhn** led the efforts to get the structure built with some assistance from staff here at the museum in securing the necessary funds. Our Development and Marketing Director, **Jessie Rogers**, did exceptional work on both our *Annual Fund Campaign* and through *Missoula Gives* to raise the necessary dollars for the project. We were also very fortunate to have the support of many businesses in the community that donated or provided discounts on products or services that helped us get this done. Special mention goes to the folks over at **Jackson Contractors** who stepped up to help us get the roof on the building. It was a huge project and we could not have done it without our amazing volunteers and the support our out local businesses.

We have also been able to move forward with a full assessment and planning for our two original ADC Barracks. As you may recall, we received funding this summer from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program, which is administered by the National Park Service, with a \$40,000 grant for this project. I am happy to report that work is moving along well, and we should have a full report and a plan to move forward with restoration by the middle of October. Of course, we will still need to seek funding for the restoration work to be done, but it is nice to celebrate our accomplishments as they happen.

Unfortunately, not everything has been roses here as we continue to seek a path forward during the Corona Virus pandemic. With restrictions still in place and case numbers still significant in Missoula County, we have been unable to celebrate many of the special events that our community has become accustomed to. Recently we had to make the difficult decision to cancel our Harvest Festival and postpone our Annual Used Book Sale. The Book Sale was especially difficult for our staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Museum Board. That said, we made this decision because we felt it was in the best interest of our community and its safety.

On the positive side of things, I am incredibly proud of my staff for their continued efforts to serve our community. We have all learned new skills in the past six months, becoming "experts" at things like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, virtual exhibits, and Facebook Live. We have hosted many programs virtually that can be viewed from the safety of your home, and our daily posts, puzzles, and videos have allowed us to reach a whole new audience. I am also excited that we have begun to offer some small group tours by appointment. This gives the public and school groups the opportunity to see our new exhibits in a controlled and safe way.



THE MUSEUM RAISED THE BARN BECAUSE OF YOU!

THANK YOU!

Jackson Contractor Group	Pacific Steel & Recycling
Hunts Timbers Inc.	Montana Bolt Co.
Boyce Lumber & Design	Western States-Cat Rental
Western Excavating	Heritage Timber
Midway Rental	Rodda Paint Co.
MOMS Rental	Donors Across the Nation
Knife River Corp.	
CD/A Metals	
Montana Rail Link	

THANK YOU, FOR HELPING PROTECT & RESTORE ENGINE #7

As we move further into the fall and a contentious election season, I would encourage each one of you to focus on the positives and not just on the challenges that this time has given us. Small acts of kindness and self-exploration go a long way. Do a favor for a friend, give a compliment to someone for a job well done, take up a new hobby, or read a good book. The pandemic will pass, and we will get through this. When that happens, we cannot wait to gather with you again to celebrate our community and Missoula's rich history.

DEAR MUSEUM FRIENDS,

This summer has been incredibly challenging for the Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, our primary fundraising group. Due to the current pandemic, all the Friends activities have either been postponed or cancelled. **This includes** events like the 4th at the Fort, Forestry Day, selling cheese curds at the Western Montana Fair, and our Annual Used Book Sale.

For staff it has been a trying time as the museum is oddly quiet and we desperately miss our beloved volunteers. In dealing with this trying time, we have worked tirelessly to learn new skills (Zoom, Facebook Live, virtual exhibits, etc.) that have helped us to continue delivering services to our community and to pursue our mission of **Keeping Missoula County's History alive for the education and enjoyment of community.**

Despite all these challenges and major losses in revenue for the Friends of the Museum, **we continue to move forward with several major projects.** This spring we worked with Missoula County to completely reimagine our parking lot, adding pavement, gutters, curbs and sidewalks. In June, we raised a pole barn over our Willamette Locomotive to protect it from the elements and just last month we began a full assessment and planning for two original WWII ADC barracks. **While operations certainly aren't normal, we continue to work to preserve our community's history.**

As we move into fall, we will soon begin welcoming small groups for cider pressing and harvest activities. We also plan to open a new exhibit that tells the stories and experiences of the Japanese men held at Fort Missoula during WWII. **Please keep an eye out for some virtual programming related to the new exhibit.**

On behalf of the museum's staff, volunteers, and the Friends of the Historical Museum Board, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. We feel so fortunate to be part of the Missoula community and to live in a place with such a powerful respect for arts and culture.

Enclosed you will find some exciting news. We recently had an anonymous donor come forward offering to match all cash donations for our 2020 Annual Fund Campaign up to \$12,500. ***This is where we need your help.***

To receive the full amount of this pledge, we need to match this donation by November. If we are successful, this initiative will raise \$25,000 to help the Friends of the Museum continue their excellent work. **Please, if you are able, consider making a gift today.**

A friend of history has challenged our community & supporters to help the Museum by MATCHING EVERY donation now through November and UP TO \$12,500.

Will you make a gift today?

100% of all donations support local history & education.

At this moment, your gift will have real impact on the future of your History Museum.

BECOME A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER OF THE MUSEUM WITH A RECURRING GIFT.

SET UP YOUR MONTHLY, QUARTERLY OR ANNUAL GIFT AT:

WWW.FORTMISSOULAMUSEUM.ORG/DONATE

We MUST raise \$12,500 to complete this MATCH by November.

Gifts of all sizes make a difference!



We are so grateful for your continued support and the passion YOU and our community have for historic places.

THANK YOU
for making history a priority.

CONSCIENTIOUS SMOKE JUMPERS

By Anne Smyrl, Collections Assistant

From the collection: Smoke jumping at Camp Paxson

During the second world war, Western Montana was home to a group of deeply principled and energetic young men. They had little in common with each other, but two key similarities had brought them together in Seeley Lake. First, they were all conscientious objectors to the war, men who had been drafted and had exercised their right to refuse a combat placement and instead worked at camps run by the **Civilian Public Service**, or **CPS**. Many hailed from the traditional peace churches: the Mennonites and the Society of Friends, also known as the Quaker society. Others were of different religious backgrounds but similarly compelled by their faith to refuse violence, while a select few had no religious backing for their convictions at all, merely a strong moral conviction and the will to fight the draft board. Secondly, all the men at Seeley Lake had applied to one of the most physically dangerous jobs available to them during the war: smoke jumping.



Smoke jumping was not a completely new idea in 1943, when the first **CPS** smokejumpers camp opened. The Forest Service had been testing and refining the concept since the mid-1930s, but the war put a serious damper on the program, as most of the men who would serve as jumpers were instead drafted. Using **CPS** men as smokejumpers was the idea of Phil Stanley, a conscientious objector who felt that the other projects available to him and his fellows were not only menial, but unnecessary. He wrote to the Forest Service, suggesting that the **CPS** men could be useful in continuing the firefighting program. Forest Service leadership agreed, and in 1943 the first group of **CPS** men arrived at Camp Paxson, on Seeley Lake. The program lasted for three years, until the war ended in 1946. With the return of the combat veterans, the **CPS** men were no longer needed. The stigma against conscientious objectors meant that the Forest Service refused to allow any of the men in the program to continue as smokejumpers.

During those three years, the smokejumpers fought hundreds of fires, large and small, including the devastating Bell Lake fire of 1944. According to one former smokejumper, the ideal smokejumper fire was quite small and very remote. Those fires, caught before they could spread, could be quickly put out by two or three men, who could be dropped directly onto the location. Ground-based firefighters would take far longer to reach those remote locations, by which point the fire would have grown and could potentially require a far larger number of men to control.

This picture from our collection is from the program's first year. It was taken by **Roy Wenger**, the program's first camp director. Wenger, a Mennonite originally from Ohio, moved with his wife Florence to the camp. She served as the camp dietician, and very nearly became a smokejumper in her own right—she kept up with the men in the physical training and preparation and was ready to jump, but was held back by Forest Service officials, who weren't willing to take the risk of letting something happen to her. Roy and Florence ran the camp for a year, at which point Roy was transferred to another **CPS** posting in Pennsylvania.

Although many communities were hostile to the conscientious objectors, considering their refusal to fight to be cowardly or even traitorous, the people of Missoula largely embraced the smokejumpers. Men from the camp went into town during their time off, and townsfolk—particularly young women attending the University of Montana—went up to the camp for dances and other parties. Some of the men were married, and their wives found homes and jobs in town, something which was not always possible in more hostile communities.

This photo was generously donated to the museum by Lilian Wenger, Roy Wenger's widow. We are grateful to her for preserving and sharing this important history and helping to tell the story of these extraordinary young men.

A NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

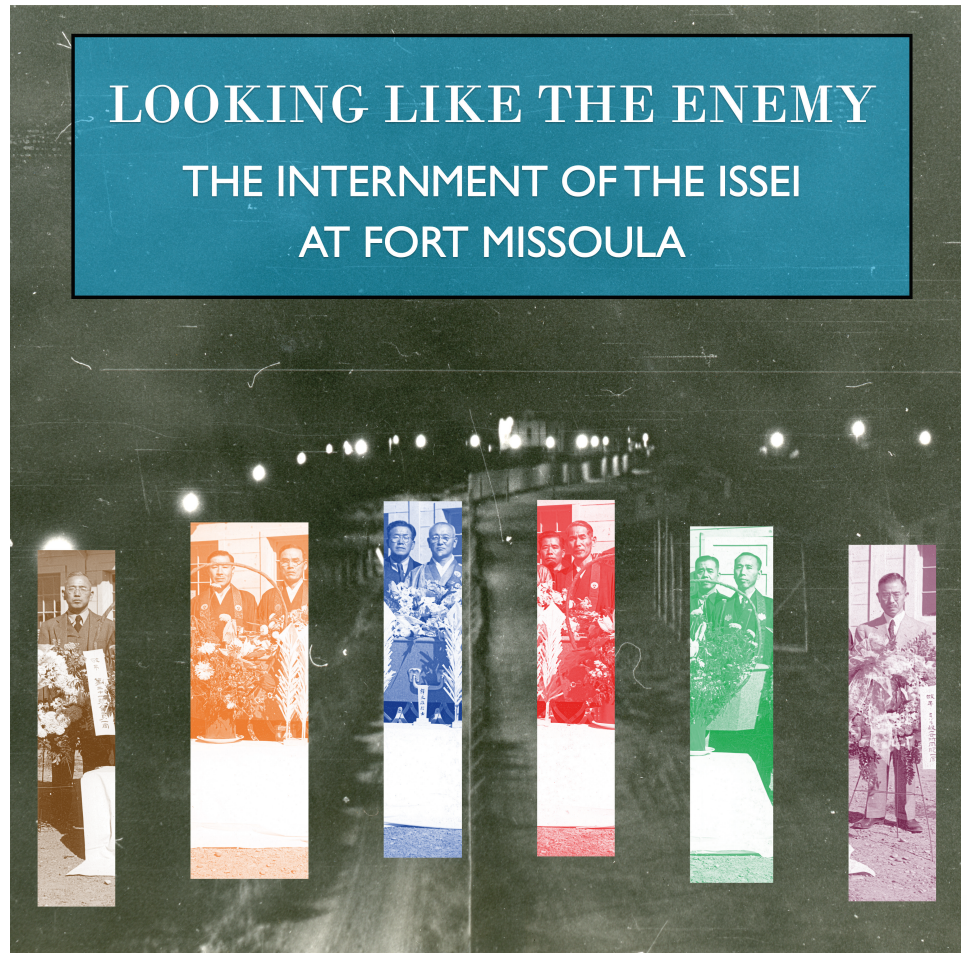
By Ted Hughes, Curator

Hello Museum Supporters, it is with a heavy heart that I am informing you that I will be leaving the HMFM team. It has been an enriching experience spending time with such wonderful volunteers, fantastic interns, and a talented and hardworking staff committed to telling the stories of Missoula's history. We are fortunate to live in an area with such a rich, fascinating heritage. . . and everyone needs to know about it!

HMFM is always a whirlwind of projects and programs. When pandemic restrictions lighten, I encourage you to visit a new exhibit we have been working so hard to produce and install before I leave employment: **Looking Like the Enemy: The Issei Internment at Fort Missoula.** I've worked closely with colleagues Anne Smyrl and Carolyn Thompson to bring to you the story of the 1,000 Japanese immigrants that were arrested and interned at Fort Missoula shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, followed by the incarceration of over 100,000 American citizens of Japanese heritage. This exhibit provides the context for how such a human rights and civil rights violation occurred on such a massive scale, from the decades of racism towards Asians, both day-to-day and institutional, the exploitation of the hysteria following Imperial Japan's attack, the reaction of the Issei and Japanese American community to the assault on their rights, and the post-war efforts to ensure this would never happen again.

The exhibit features photographs and artifacts from HMFM's permanent collection. A beautiful painting honoring the Issei internees, exhibited for the first time, painted by Kathy Herlihy-Paoli during her artist-in-residency at the Fort this summer, and two charming watercolors that were given to Verna Mundt, mother of local gallerist Don Mundt, by an Issei internee, also exhibited for the first time. I'm also proud to announce that the Oregon Historical Society has lent us artifacts from the Yasui Brothers Store in Hood River, once an important hub of commerce, closed down during WWII (come to the exhibit to learn about the Yasui family). This exhibit is meant to honor and memorialize the resiliency of these immigrants and Americans in the face of unwavering bigotry and the loss of all they had built prior to the war.

Though I'm leaving employment at the museum, I continue to be a big fan and supporter, a member even, and I'd like to remind you that during these trying times we'll need your support more than ever. Hope to see you soon!



MUSEUM EDUCATION IN INTERESTING TIMES

By Kristjana Eyolfsson, Education Director

I'm sure it won't surprise any of our readers how much Covid-19 has changed the way our education department functions, as we all know that the pandemic has changed most aspects of our lives. Ordinarily at this time of year I'd be reporting on the 1000s of school children who have been out to the Fort enjoying apple pressing, meeting Angie (our "mean" schoolmarm) at the Grant Creek School, or climbing the fire lookout with Steve.

As my colleague Jessie likes to say, "PIVOT"! We have had to make some creative leaps to help keep history alive these last few months.

What we CAN still do during this pandemic is connect with our community. As you may have noticed last spring we started experimenting with virtual programs, live online events, and we will continue online programs into the winter. We have continued to work with Empower Place at the Food Bank, and instead of doing in person activities, we have prepared activity kits that they distribute during meal pick up. With County Health Department guidance, we hosted small groups for camp activities this past Summer and have been able to invite small groups back to enjoy history with us this Fall.

We have missed welcoming visitors to the museum, especially since we have two great newer exhibits that nearly no one has had the chance to visit! Now we are happy to offer small group tours of the main museum, the grounds, and a special tour focused on the Alien Detention Center. Since we had to cancel Harvest Fest this year, we are offering apple pressing for families and small groups too. You can find more information and sign up for apple pressing or tours on our website: fortmissoulamuseum.org/education/schedule-a-tour We hope to see you at the museum soon!



Fall Small
Group Tours

MEET OUR NEW INTERN

Katherine Hochella



Katherine Hochella is an intern at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula assisting with creating virtual tours of the museum's exhibits. Previously, Katherine voluntarily interned at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago during the summers of 2017 and 2018 where she assisted in repatriating sacred/funerary objects and human remains, documenting and filing objects in the North American Collections, and describing photographs for uploading to the Museum's co-curation program database for local Filipina/o communities. Katherine also participated in a three-week field research program where she assisted with howler monkey conservation efforts in Cañas, Costa Rica including health, habitat & behavioral assessment through darting, focal and scan sampling and food source identification. Katherine received the L. Hill & A. Newens Scholarship

at Ithaca College from 2014 to 2019 and was accepted into the Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society in 2018. Katherine holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Sports Studies from Ithaca College.



**Old Fashioned
Apple
Pressing**
Small Groups
Free
Pre-registration
Required

WANT TO SCHEDULE A SMALL GROUP TOUR?

Contact Kristjana at (406) 258-3473 or go to our website at fortmissoulamuseum.org/education/schedule-a-tour



MONTANA VOTES! A 3-PART VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

MONTANA VOTES!

A 3-part Virtual Lecture Series

The Historical Museum's newest exhibit, MONTANA VOTES! is on display and tours are available by appointment. Learn how the process of voter referendums relates to the Anaconda Copper Company, that Jeannette Rankin is not Montana's only example of a trailblazing woman in government, & the Native American struggle for voting rights.

MONTANA VOTES virtual lecture series incorporates this timely exhibit and guest presenters to bring Montana's political history to life. The series includes discussions of how our past is connected to today's policies, history of MT Politics, Women's Suffrage, Voting 101, Native American Voting Rights, & more.

Each session includes a Q & A and will be recorded and made available on the Museum's website, www.fortmissoulamuseum.org/montana-vote-lecture-series/.

Part 1: MONTANA VOTES!: The History of Montana Politics & Women's Suffrage

- Recording on website
- Guest Presenter – *Diane Sands*
 - ◊ Diane Sands is the former director of the Montana Women's History Project, former staff of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, the MT Historical Society's 2017 Montana Heritage Guardian, and serves in the MT Senate representing Missoula.

Part 2: MONTANA VOTES 101: How To's, Myth Busting & History

- Recording on website
- Live streamed on Facebook and Museum Website
- Guest Presenters – *Bradley Seaman and Vicki Zeier*
 - ◊ Bradley Seaman, Missoula County's Elections Administrator & Vickie Zeier, former Elections administrator who recently retired after 35 years as Missoula County's Chief Administrative Officer.

Join us for:

Part 3: Montana Native Vote: History of Indigenous Peoples' Right to Vote

- Tuesday, October 27th at 2pm
- Zoom Webinar – Register at www.fortmissoulamuseum.org/montana-vote-lecture-series/
- Guest Presenters – *Brianna Lamb and Marci McLean*
 - ◊ Brianna Lamb, Community Organizer at the All Nations Health Center & Marci McLean, Executive Director of Western Native Voice

Tune in live to the Museum's Facebook Page or YouTube channel to engage with the guest presenters during the Q & A session or visit their website to watch the recording.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MUSEUM

- ★ Free admission to the Museum & Events
- ★ 10% discount at the Museum store & educational programs/camps
- ★ Some levels gain Membership in the North American Reciprocal Association
Includes Access to over 1000 museums, zoos, & many others
- ★ Youth enrolled in the Fort Missoula Kids Club
Includes: Hands on History Passports & special activities

SIGN UP TODAY!

HMFM

Friends of the Historical Museum @ Fort Missoula's

Annual Used Book Sale

POSTPONED

In the interest of our community's health & with much sadness, we announce the postponement of the book sale until 2021.

HMFM

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula

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www.FortMissoulaMuseum.org

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MATCHED \$ FOR \$ UP TO \$12,500!**

www.FortMissoulaMuseum.org/donate

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