

IN THIS ISSUE:

Director's Corner	2
New Exhibit	2
Staff Spotlight	3
Window Restoration	3
Upcoming Events	4
Gift Shop	5
Short Stories	6
Board, Staff, and Volunteers	6

THE History MUSEUM

A PUBLICATION OF THE CASCADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL
2018

JAZZ NIGHT AT THE OZARK

The New Harold Nicholls Big Band plays its big band sound onstage for Jazz Night at The History Museum on Saturday, September 22nd. The 16-piece band, directed by Great Falls native and musician Bud Nicholls, will perform a variety of swing era and jazz music from 7:00 – 10:00 pm at the museum's Ozark Performance Club.

Great Falls and North Central Montana has always embraced the Big Band sound. Nicholls continues his father's legacy (Harold Nicholls) playing from a songbook of over 200 arrangements. The original Harold Nicholls Big Band played exceptional swing music in Montana for decades and was featured at several Governors' Inaugural Balls.

"I'm excited that this extraordinary band is playing at the museum again this year, bringing back music that was so notable in this town at the old Ozark Club during the 1940s and 50s," said museum director Jim Meinert. Nicholls noted, "The band always plays a program to dance to and we are happy to play this benefit event for The History Museum."

Performing in the New Harold Nicholls band are: Peter Wilson on piano; Sterling Burch on bass; Jay Constantino, John Gemberling, Dusty Molyneaux and Russ Kellogg on trumpet; Don Stone, Fred Gnojek, Dale Hallock on trombone; Alan Johnson, Hal Hug, Anne Kittleson, Ron Coons and Bob Kampfner on saxophone; and, Gabe Norquist on drums.

WHERE: The History Museum's Ozark Performance Room, 422 Second Street S, Great Falls

WHEN: Saturday, September 22nd, from 7:00 - 10:00 pm

ADMISSION: \$22 members and \$25 non-members

FOOD AND BEVERAGE: No-host bar and sandwiches from William & Robert's Fine BBQ

TICKETS: Available at The History Museum – call 452-3462 for information.

Tickets may also be purchased at Kaufman's Menswear.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Greetings! Susan and I recently spent a full day at the Kennedy Space Center. Our trip there taught us that the return on investment to society from NASA's challenging research and discoveries is profoundly significant and largely unexpected.

We see the numerous effects from this research all around us. Life-saving advances in cancer screening, artificial heart pumps and the robotic surgery arm began with basic space research. Our routine use of ATMs, pay-at-the-pump gasoline, storm detection and GPS technologies are by-products of space research. While the space program was not created with the idea of gaining these cultural benefits, our lives have been enhanced and new possibilities were created for the future.

Over the last 42 years, this museum has transformed into one of the foremost research centers in the state of Montana, housing over 70,000 photographs and tens of thousands of old papers and manuscripts. We have used many of these resources through the medium of film to educate people about this area's history. Our History Museum films have been broadcast on PBS and commercial television since 2010, with one film, "Glacier Park Remembered," airing in 28 states.

It is launch time again as we prepare for the premiere of our newest History Museum film, "Thunder Under the Big Sky," a film about the history of the military in north central Montana. The founders of our Historical Society could not have predicted that our history would be promoted with today's technology. They cannot join us for the ride, but I hope you will. The film will premiere on September 27th at the museum.

-Jim Meinert

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING EVENT



A grand opening for a new museum exhibit honoring the Great Falls Police and Fire Departments was held at The History Museum on August 22 and was attended by about 75 people. Police Chief Dave Bowen talked about the growth of Great Falls and how police work is much different today than when his father worked for the police department. Assistant Fire Chief Jones described a brief history of the Great Falls Fire Department and Assistant Fire Marshall Ron Martin answered questions concerning fire department exhibit items on display that have been donated to the museum over the years. Please stop by the museum and see this wonderful exhibit created by museum exhibit director Ashleigh McCann.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JUDY ELLINGHAUSEN

A couple of afternoons a week I have the privilege of **spending time with The History Museum's artifact collection.**

After a first career in nursing, in midlife I decided to **"follow my bliss" and went off to the University of Montana** to study Anthropology and History. I moved from taking care of people to taking care of their stories in the form of the written record, photographs and now the artifacts they left behind. After 15 years as Archivist for the History Museum, another five with the Great Falls Public Library, and a year into retirement I was asked to return to The History Museum to help out in collections. A new Collections Curator, Ashleigh McCann, had been hired and we started a formidable project to inventory every item in the artifact collection to better organize and improve access to the collection.



I quickly learned that many of the items on the shelves held the stories to earlier generations that were already gone or were leaving us rapidly. It was a little disconcerting to realize that many of my own youthful memories from the 1950s and 60s were now housed in a history museum.

The ornate artifacts of the Victorian era have their place in history, but it's the everyday objects of the "common folk" whose labor grew the families and heritage of our region that I find the most intriguing. Looking at the objects on the shelves, it hit me that the daily lives of the past were so alien from our disposable society of today. Tools of daily life were made to last and were repaired and repurposed, often because of necessity. I found one of my favorite objects in the collection tucked away on a shelf. It was a large old wooden bowl in poor condition that had been used to knead and mold butter. A large crack in the wood was wired together, and when the bowl continued to split a handmade metal patch had been painstakingly attached to the bottom of the bowl. The wooden bowl is now deeply **cracked and the metal patch is loose, but in my eyes it's one of the most beautiful items in the collection because of the story it has to tell.**

-Judy Ellinghausen

WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT, SPRING 2018

For the first time in several decades, **spring sunlight peered into the museum's gift shop** through the new first floor storefront glass window. The window restoration project, which involved **demolition of a portion of the museum's interior and exterior walls** and placement of a weather efficient fourteen by eleven foot glass window, was completed by Dale Mayernick and his company Detailed Construction. The museum thanks Dale and his team for completing this important renovation project ahead of time and on budget.



UPCOMING EVENTS: FALL 2018



Bud Nicholls and his big band return to Jazz Night at the Ozark! Tickets can be purchased at The History Museum and at **Kauffman's Menswear**.

Saturday, September 22nd, 7-10pm
\$22 Members, \$25 Non-Members



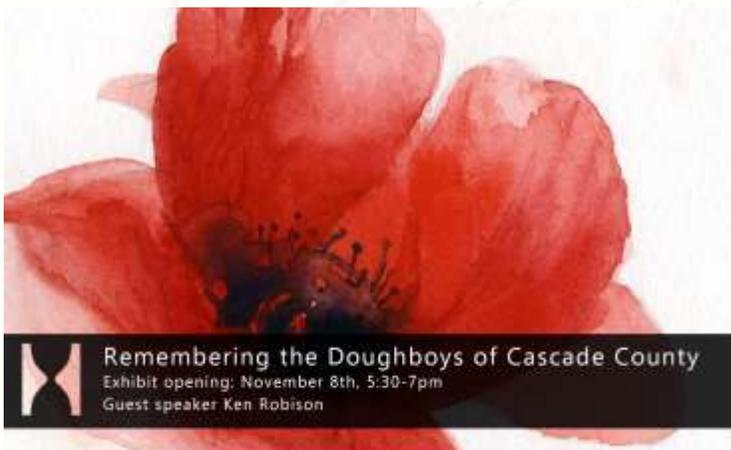
The History Museum presents a new **documentary of North Central Montana's Military: Thunder Under the Big Sky**. Join us for the film premiere and the opening of a complementary exhibition.

Thursday, September 27th, 7pm
Q&A 8pm
FREE EVENT



Lecture Series: Improve Your Photography
Owen Robinson presents his photography and techniques to improve the quality of your photographs.

Wednesday, October 10th &
Wednesday, October 17th 7-8pm
FREE EVENTS



We celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the ending of World War I with a new exhibition honoring the doughboys of Cascade County. Ken Robison will present his new book: *World War I Montana: The Treasure State Prepares*.

Thursday, November 8th, 6:30-8pm
Author talk 7pm
FREE EVENT

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP?



New T-shirt exclusive to The History Museum!

BOOKS • DVDs • JEWELRY • GIFTS • TOYS • SOUVENIRS

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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SHORT STORIES: DANCE 'TILL YOU DROP



When the Great Depression hit, the Roaring 20s came to a screeching halt. Life was no longer carefree, and survivability became an everyday thought for many who had not had to worry before. In search of escape from the new reality, walkathons rose in popularity amongst the public. Dancers competed in front of massive crowds for prizes and publicity. People came from all over for cheap entertainment. It was almost like a reality show. The competitions lasted anywhere from hours to several weeks. One such event happened in Great Falls in 1934.

Dance 'Till You Drop will be up until October 5th, 2018. Be sure to see the next Short Stories Exhibit, "Sister Sisters" - the story of the sisters who

became Sisters in the Ursuline Order, October 9th - January 15th.