



ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

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RMMM NEWSLETTER
 A non-profit Museum located in the Fort Missoula Historic District

RMMM
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 Missoula MT 59807

 (406) 549-5346
 website:
www.fortmissoula.org
 E-mail:
info@fortmissoula.org
 Hours:
 Winter-Spring – Sat. & Sundays 12-5
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5
 Other times by appointment.

RMMM Officers 2003-04

President: Chairman
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 (406) 543-6806

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 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

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MUSEUM OPENS LAVERNE PARRISH BUILDING

The Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History opened its main exhibit building on Memorial Day 2003, as Fort Missoula's Building T-316 was rededicated as the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building.

Many local veterans were on hand as former state Senator Mike Halligan provided the keynote address; the assembly was told that their efforts had made the RMMM's opening possible. John C. Moe and Ed Mosier raised the U.S. flag for the first time in many years over the building; both men had been stationed at Fort Missoula during their careers. Pauline Gordon cut the entrance ribbon, and the public then got its first look at the premiere exhibit "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle".

The building is named for Laverne Parrish, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his service as a medic in the Philippine Campaign in 1944.

About a quarter of the building is now open to the public, including the former drill hall, front hallway, and the director's office. Work is continuing this winter on a second exhibit hall.

Both buildings on the Museum grounds, T-310 and T-316, will be open 12-5 Saturdays and Sundays through June 1

NEW RAFFLE ITEM

The museum is raffling off a WWII Japanese sword, that was donated by Hayes Otoupalik. The drawing will be in Aug. at the Missoula Gun Show. Tickets are available at the Museum. All proceeds go to the Museum Building restoration fund. Tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00

RMMM DEDICATES SVOBODA HALL

Friends and supporters of the Museum gathered at the Parrish Building on September 14 to dedicate the former drill hall as the Robert A. Svoboda Exhibition Hall.

Svoboda, a Lewiston native, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, then returned to Montana to attend the UM. He met his wife Jean while in Missoula, and then went on to a successful business career in financial services in both Montana and California. He amassed substantial collections of Montana memorabilia and papers from the territorial and early statehood periods, and in 2002 generously donated one of his compilations to the RMMM. The donation included several original documents from Fort Missoula.

Svoboda and his wife both attended the dedication, where he noted that his last name is a synonym in the Czech language for "Liberty", making it a perfect fit for the tenor of the hall's exhibits. He also expressed the hope that the hall would serve an educational purpose for younger generations.

Photos of Svoboda and samples of his collection are on display next to the Laverne Parrish case.

RAFFLE WINNER

Lee Christensen of Polson, MT, was the lucky raffle ticket holder for the Model 1894 Winchester .32 special caliber rifle which was raffled on Aug. 11, 2003 at the 48th Annual Missoula Gun Show.

Mr. Christensen won the rifle by purchasing six raffle tickets at our Memorial Day display at Southgate Mall. Mr. Christensen was not present at the drawing, so his rifle was presented on Aug 26th by Board Member Hayes Otoupalik

MUSEUM PLANS D-DAY COMMEMORATION IN JUNE 2004

The RMMMh is planning a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Normandy invasion in June of 2004. The Museum wishes to invite all Montanans who were present at the invasion on June 6, 1944, whether on the land, sea, or air, so that they may receive special recognition as part of the planned ceremony.

If you are a Montana D-Day veteran or know of one, please contact the Museum so that an invitation may be forwarded.

The Museum will also be presenting a special D-Day exhibit next summer as part of its expanded gallery offerings.

RMMMh RECEIVES NEW GRANT FROM GALLAGHER FOUNDATION

Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster announced in September that the Museum had been awarded a \$6000 grant from the William and Rosemary Gallagher Foundation, to be applied toward the continued restoration of the Laverne Parrish Building.

The Gallaghers were long-time residents of Missoula and prominent members of the business community; Rosemary Gallagher gave the RMMMh one of its first "seed" grants in 1998.

Dennis Gordon, superintendent of the restoration and an RMMMh Board member, said the grant would be used for stabilization of the building's foundation, the installation of water service, and the expansion of exhibit space with a projected completion of the next restoration phase by Spring 2004.

RECENT MEMORIAL WINDOW DONORS:

Vernon and Rose Gotcher
Marge Kraabel
Northern Rockies Heritage Center
George L. Stemple
We appreciate their support!

NORTHERN ROCKIES HERITAGE CENTER HONORS BO FOSTER

On a very hot August Sunday many friends of RMMMh President M.Y. "Bo" Foster gathered at Building 30 on Officers Row at Fort Missoula to dedicate the structure to him for his many years of military and civic service.

Speaking at the former Commanding Officer's Quarters were Pete Vann, Col. Sam Roberts, and Northern Rockies Heritage Center (NRHC) Administrator Jim Azzara.

Among other highlights of Foster's career noted were his service with the U.S. 36th Division in Italy during World War II and his tenure as State Assistant Adjutant General of the Montana National Guard.

A plaque installed by the NRHC on the front of the building discusses Foster's career, and will be a worthy appreciation for future Fort visitors to view.

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Donald Leary family - naval books and ship models

UM ROTC - "U.S. Army in Action" print series

Gary and Gail Lancaster - WW I personalized artillery shell, select military items

Hayes and Lia Otoupalik -

L.A. Times WW II supplement
John Moe - "Custer's Last Stand" print by Edgar S. Paxson

Maj. Leslie Reed family - Camp chair from WW II North African Campaign

Joe Bouchard family- WWI uniform with Co. "L" (Indian company) tag.

DONATIONS NEEDED

The Museum is presently refurbishing its storage area. We need wooden clothes hangers and metal storage shelving. If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the Museum from 12 to 5 on Saturdays and Sundays.

The RMMMh Board of Trustees welcomes Kermit Edmonds and Ray Roehl to the Board.

Book reviews

Looking for a special gift for someone? These make great gifts!

They Came to Destroy America: The FBI Goes To War Against Nazi Spies and Saboteurs Before and During World War II, Pictorial Histories Publishing, 2003, 166 pp., \$16.95.

Stan Cohen's latest book, written in cooperation with Don DeNevi and Richard Gay, looks at the attempted espionage operations of Nazi Germany on U.S. soil during WW II.

Operations Pastorius and Magpie managed to put several German agents ashore in 1942 and 1944; fortunately they were apprehended before they could do any damage to the U.S. war effort. Cohen was able to interview John Cullen, the U.S. Coast Guardsman who initially intercepted the German landing party on Long Island, as well as other participants.

As an aside the much-forgotten German-American Bund is also examined; this was the pro-Nazi organization of German-Americans which was active before the U.S. entered WW II.

Prints in the Sand: The U.S. Coast Guard Beach Patrol During World War II, PHP, 1989, 82 pp., \$9.95.

An excellent companion volume for the above-mentioned book. Eleanor C. Bishop, recalls the U.S. Coast Guard organization that patrolled the nation's periphery during WW II.

Several thousand servicemen were assigned to watch and intercept unauthorized landings by sea, and performed their duties by foot, horseback, jeep, and picket boat.

Bishop includes many period photographs and individual profiles of the regional Coast Guard operations. Both books and many other titles are available at the RMMMh gift counter. Shipping and handling fee- \$5.00

The Museum extends its thanks to Tom and June Peterson, who again this year filled in for the Director Jones on his days off, and to Tom Lee, who has been volunteering at the Museum this summer and fall.

**WE STILL HAVE WINDOWS AVAILABLE!! FOR ONLY \$250.00 YOU CAN
PURCHASE A "WINDOW TO THE PAST"**



If you are interested in dedicating a window in this building for a friend or loved one, there are still some windows available! The new windows that have been installed look great! A 2x3 brass nametag will be placed on the window or an oak plaque with the name of the person you are dedicating the window in honor of.

T/4 LAVERNE PARRISH BUILDING

Please make checks payable to: RMMMh

Enter the following information for your family member or friend, to be placed on the brass name tag

In Honor of: Name: _____

Branch of Service: (if app.) _____

Rank: (if app.) _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail address : _____

The RMMMh is a private 501 (c)3 non-profit Institution. Contributions are tax-deductible to the amount allowed by law. Your continued support for our exhibits and programs are most welcome.

The Museum offers memberships on several levels.
Membership are renewable on an annual basis, on **Veterans Day, November 11.**

_____ Youth-under age 18--- \$10.00	Name: _____
_____ Adult-----\$25.00	Address: _____
_____ Family-----\$50.00	City _____
_____ Business-----\$100.00	State _____ Zip _____
_____ Lifetime -----\$500.00	e-mail address: _____

If you are renewing your membership, please check your address for accuracy, and note any corrections on the form.

Please make checks payable to:
RMMMh
PO Box 7263
Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
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Missoula MT 59807

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Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web
www.fortmissoula.org

A private non-profit museum promoting the commemoration and study of the U.S. armed services from the Frontier Period to the War on Terrorism.

LABEL

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

We are accepting donations for our 4th Annual 4TH OF JULY COLLECTORS sale!! We would appreciate any antiques, collectibles, or good quality items that you no longer want. All proceeds from the sale of the items will go toward building restoration. The Museum raised nearly \$3000 from the sale last year, and we hope to increase that in years to come We can arrange to have items picked up if necessary.

Give us a call at **549-5346**, or **549-6280**

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MILITARY ITEMS FOR THE 4TH OF JULY SALE.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

The Museum does accept donations of Military Artifacts from any era, for our **permanent** collection. If you have items you would like to donate, call us at 549-5346 or

549-6280. Or e-mail us at:
militarymuseu45@hotmail.com.

FALL AND WINTER Programs at RMMMMH

All programs are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, Building T-310, unless otherwise noted.

- December 14 – 2:00** RMMMMH Holiday Party
- January 25 - 3:00** program: Battle of Kwajalein, Pacific Theatre, 1944
- February 22- 3:00** program: Struggle at Monte Cassino, Italy, 1944
- March 14 - 3:00** program: General Thomas Meagher and the Civil War's Irish Brigade

CURRENT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

- "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle"
- "Glory Road: The Civil War in the Mid-Atlantic States, 1862-63"
- "The U.S. Army vs. the Depression: Fort Missoula and the Civilian Conservation Corps"

*** MUSEUM HOURS THROUGH JUNE 1 SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, 12-5 ***

