

  
 ☆ SPRING ☆  
 ☆ 2003 ☆  
 Vol 1 Issue3  
 Published May and October

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM OF MILITARY HISTORY

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## RMMMHS NEWSLETTER

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

RMMMHS  
 PO Box 7263  
 Missoula MT 59807  
 (406) 549-5346  
 website:  
[www.geocities.com/fortmissoula](http://www.geocities.com/fortmissoula)

E-mail:  
[militarymuseu45@hotmail.com](mailto:militarymuseu45@hotmail.com)

Hours:  
 Winter-Spring - Sundays 12-5  
 June 1 thru Labor day- daily 12-5  
 Other times by appointment.

RMMMHS Officers 2003

President; Chairman  
 Brig. Gen. M Y (Bo) Foster AUS(Ret.)  
 (406) 543-6806

Vice-President  
 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

Secretary-Treasurer  
 Lt. Col. Glenn Parmeter USA Ret.  
 (406) 543-5002

Exec. Director: Tate Jones  
 (406) 549-5346

Newsletter Editor: Marcia Porter  
 (406) 728-0594

Inside this Issue:	Pg
T/4 Laverne Parrish Bldg Dedication	1
Memorial Day at Southgate Mall	2
T/4 Laverne Parrish Bldg. displays	2
Book reviews	2
Raffle 1894 Winchester Rifle	2
Memorial Window form	3
Membership application	3
Exhibits & Programs	4
July 4 <sup>th</sup> 2003 Collectors Sale	4

### MUSEUM TO DEDICATE BUILDING ON MEMORIAL DAY

#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Commencing at 2:00 p.m., Memorial Day

- Master of Ceremonies..... William R Schwanke
- Color Guard ..... American Legion Post 27, Missoula
- Invocation..... Sam A Roberts Col. USAF (Ret.)
- Welcome..... M.Y. Foster Brig. Gen. AUS (Ret)
- Presentation of Building..... John E Prendergast
- ..... Montana Army National Guard, Maj. Gen. U.S.Army
- Keynote Speaker..... Michael L. Halligan
- Dedication of T/4 Laverne Parrish Building ..... Dennis D. Gordon
- Reflections ..... Dean Robert E Sullivan
- Flag Raising..... John C Moe/Edward E. Mosier
- Ribbon Cutting ..... Pauline A. Gordon
- Concluding Remarks..... Robert F. Burke

On Memorial Day, May 26, at 2:00, the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History will formally open its main display facility to the public.

The building, also known as Building T-316, will be dedicated in the name of T/4 Laverne Parrish, USA, of Ronan. T/4 Parrish was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions as a medic during the Philippine Campaign of World War II.

Dedication ceremonies will commence at 2:00. Grizzly sports announcer Bill Schwanke will be master of ceremonies, former state senator and Vietnam veteran Mike Halligan will be the keynote speaker, and three representatives of agencies that used the Fort in the past will raise the flag for the first time over the Museum's new display center.

The building, constructed on the Fort Missoula campus ca. 1936 by the U.S. Fourth Infantry Regiment and the Civilian Conservation Corps, served as District Headquarters for the CCC. Nearly 25,000 CCC corpsmen were processed at the Fort and sent on to public works projects throughout Montana.

The building was later used as an artillery group headquarters for the Montana Army National Guard by General Bo Foster AUS, (Ret.), who is now the RMMMHS President. Use of the facility is licensed from the Montana Army National Guard in exchange for continued maintenance.

Dedicated RMMMHS volunteers, led by Dennis Gordon and Ted Kirschmann, began restoration work on the structure in the spring of 2000. About a quarter of the building's lower level is finished and is now ready for year-round use. This includes the main gallery, the Director's Office, and the forward portion of the entry Hallway. New carpet has been laid, and the furnace should be installed by the opening date.

Among other improvements a new roof and porch were added, new wiring, sheetrock, and insulation installed. Additional display galleries will be opened as restoration of the remainder of the building progresses. These volunteers have done an exceptional job! Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard on this building.

Bring family and friends and join us for a memorable day!

## Museum Opens New Exhibit On Montanans Who Served

The first exhibit in the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building will be "The Ultimate Sacrifice: Montanans in Battle".

The exhibit will use period and personal items as well as selections from the Museum's art collection to provide an overview of Montana's participation in America's wars, with an emphasis on Treasure State residents who were killed in service as a result.

Among the stories featured will be those of:

- ◆ **Louis Charlo** of Evaro, who helped raised the first U.S. flag over Iwo Jima. Killed there one week later.
- ◆ **Laverne Parrish**: see page 1
- ◆ **Raymond Saunders** of Billings, shot down over France.
- ◆ **Dave Stelling** of Missoula, killed in an air attack over Tokyo Bay.
- ◆ **Kris Stonesifer** of Missoula, the first operational casualty of the U.S. War on Terrorism.
- ◆ **Norman Streit** of Missoula, killed during the Battle of the Bulge
- ◆ **David Sullivan** of Missoula, killed in action in Viet Nam

The Museum will be continuing its exhibits in Building T-310 on the Civil War and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

---

Oct 13, 1775, US Navy Established

---

Museum Display at Southgate Mall on Memorial Day Weekend.

The RMMMh will again have a display at Southgate Mall on the weekend on May 24-25-26 at Clock Court. On display will be numerous items from the Museum's collection, information on local veterans, and a special display on American military campaigns of 1863, 1943, and 2003.

---

June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day,  
US Army founded 1775

## T/4 Laverne Parrish Building To Feature Notable Weapons Display

The Museum has long sought to provide a suitable space to display the vehicle and weapons collections of the Northwest National Military Foundation. The opening of the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building on May 26 will mark the first permanent progress toward that goal.

On display in the former drill hall will be, as planned at press time, several weapons systems and accessories. These will include:

- An 1840's mountain howitzer and limber similar to that used at the 1877 Battle of the Big Hole.
- A machine gun cart that was used by the Fort's 4th Infantry garrison.
- A 37 mm naval landing party gun,
- A WW II USMC ammunition cart.
- A .50 caliber anti-aircraft gun and searchlight.
- A pack howitzer from the World War II and Korean War eras.

These items are provided courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Otoupalik.

---

July 2, 1926 US Army Air Corps  
Established 1926

---

### Fort Missoula Commemoration Rifle Raffle

We're continuing to sell raffle tickets for the Winchester Model 1894 .32 caliber rifle, Hayes Otoupalik donated to the Museum.

A brass plaque affixed to stock reads:  
"Fort Missoula, Montana,  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1877-2002".

The raffle is a year long event, and the drawing will be at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Missoula Gun Show, Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. You do not need to be present to win.

Raffle tickets are available at the Museum, or any of the functions presented by the Museum. All proceeds go to the Museum Building restoration fund. Tickets are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00.

---

## DONATIONS ACCEPTED

The Museum accepts 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: [militarymuseum45@hotmail.com](mailto:militarymuseum45@hotmail.com).

We will arrange to pick them up.

---

Sept 18, 1947 US Air Force  
Established

---

### Book reviews

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

"**The General and the Texas**" (1999, 154 pgs., \$17.95) Stan Cohen presents another work in his Civil War series from Pictorial Histories Inc. This overview of the 1862 Andrews Raid tells the story of a group of Union Army spies who stole a Confederate locomotive in Georgia and used it to disrupt Rebel rail lines and operations. Many period photos and maps, and as a bonus material from the 1956 Walt Disney movie about the raid that starred Fess Parker. Color plates show the raid scenes as they appear today.

"**Rise of the Ironclads**" (1988, 80 pgs., \$9.95). Another Civil War entry from Pictorial Histories. George F. Amadon provides a concise introduction to the March 1862 battle off Norfolk, Va. between the Union ironclad ship U.S.S. Monitor and the Confederate ironclad C.S.S. Virginia. This was the first battle in naval history between iron warships, and a turning point in the development of naval technology. Many period photos and engravings are included, as well as a color foldout graphic of both ships' designs.

Both from Pictorial Histories Publishing, and available at the RMMMh. Plus a \$5.00 shipping and handling fee.

---

August 4, 1790  
US Coast Guard Established

---

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: RMMMHS

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 RMMMHS 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.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Youth-under age 18--- \$10.00

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Adult-----\$25.00

City \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family-----\$50.00

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Business-----\$100.00

\_\_\_ 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:  
 RMMMHS  
 PO Box 7263  
 Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED



**RMMMMH**

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History  
PO Box 7263  
Missoula MT 59807

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit NO. 536  
Missoula MT 59801

We're on the Web  
[www.fortmissoula.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 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. 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 THIS SALE.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNUAL JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION COLLECTORS SALE!**

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula  
Join us between 8-5, on the 4<sup>th</sup> and see what bargains are available!

**BARBECUE!!!**

We'll also have our annual barbecue, on the 4<sup>th</sup>, so shop till you drop, and grab a dog or burger while you are there. Come and enjoy the fun!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Spring and Summer Programs at RMMMMH**

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

- May 18: Armed Forces Day Weekend - Battle of Chancellorsville, Summer 1863
- May 24-26: Memorial Day Weekend RMMMMH Booth and display at Southgate Mall
- May 26: GRAND OPENING of the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building, 2:00 p.m. "The Ultimate Sacrifice; Montanans in Battle"
- June 15: Battle of Louisbourg, Summer 1758
- June 22: Battle of Monmouth, Summer 1778
- June 29: Battle of New Georgia, Pacific Theater, Summer 1943
- July 4: Independence Day Celebration at Fort Missoula; RMMMMH Collector's Sale and Revolutionary War display
- July 6: Red Army Resurgent: The Battle of Kursk, Eastern Front, Summer 1943
- July 12: Airshow, Missoula Intl. Airport; Korean War Display and Commemoration
- July 27: George Rogers Clark and Revolutionary War Battles in the West
- August 3: Lewis & Clark Traveling Trunk presentation, RMMMMH
- August 8-10: Missoula Gun Show, Adams Center; RMMMMH Booth and Raffle Drawing
- August 17: Strategy and Tactics of the Nez Perce War
- August 24: Allied Invasion of Sicily, Summer 1943

**\*\*\*GRAND OPENING OF T/4 LAVERNE PARRISH BUILDING MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2:00 p.m.\*\*\***