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 ☆ SPRING ☆
 ☆ 2006 ☆
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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.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

RMMMHS Officers 2005-06

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

Vice-President:
 Maj. Gary Lancaster USAR Ret.

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer:
 Maj. Walt Briggs USAR Ret.
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 (406) 728-0594

JOIN US FOR RMMMHS SUMMER 2006 EVENTS

The RMMMHS will be offering a range of activities for all interests and age groups this summer.

First up will be Armed Forces Day Weekend on May 20-21. On both days information will be available on volunteer opportunities at the Museum. If you would like to be further involved in the Museum's exhibits and programs, be sure to visit us for information!

On Memorial Day, May 29, we will be hosting a free open house and will honor Mideast veterans at a 2:00 ceremony.

The RMMMHS will present certificates of Appreciation to all veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, those who served in the Mideast from 1991 to 2003, and all returned Iraq War veterans. If you are a veteran or want a particular veteran honored, call the Museum at 549-5346 or e-mail info@fortmissoula.org.

We will prepare a certificate and present it to him or her on May 29, or arrange to mail it.

During the day the Museum will have a special guest speaker and refreshments. We will also be collecting sundry items for distribution to troops still serving in the Mideast. Watch the Missoulian for more information.

As always, the Museum will be presenting its fundraising collectibles sale on July 4. If you have sale-quality items please call the Museum at 549-5346 for pickup, and as always we are interested in antiques, sporting goods, quality furniture and the like (please, no plush chairs or large appliances).

The Museum will also have its annual cookout on the front lawn, so join us for some food and take in the new exhibit rooms the Museum has opened in the last year. We will also continue our raffle for the 1930's U.S. Cavalry saber, which will be given away at this August's gun show.

If the above is not enough summer activity for you, then join us as well at the 49th Missoula Original Gun Show at the Adams Center on August 4-6. We will be running our usual fundraising table and should have some unique replica items and books to sell; as always the Adams Center will be packed with interesting booths selling historical firearms and quality antiques.

The Museum will be presenting other events TBA during the summer and fall, and remember that we are open 12-5 seven days a week from June 1 to Labor Day. See you at the Fort!

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WORK COMMENCES ON NEW MUSEUM LIBRARY

The Museum has begun work on the southwest corner of the Parrish Building to prepare that section for permanent restoration. This area will comprise the Museum's research library, which will make advanced research on military history available to Museum members and visiting scholars. The Museum will make accessible its collection of over 1500 books, pamphlets, videos, and oral histories for use in private and academic research projects. The new library will also provide a viewing area for the recently acquired Bill Gibson collection of military and NASA films. The Museum hopes to have the new facility on line by early autumn of 2006.

HOW THE MUSEUM BEGAN

By M.Y. 'Bo' Foster President

Like any worthwhile project, the RMMMh did not just spring to life overnight. It evolved from a modest start and was developed into a viable project as a result of the vision and energy of dedicated individuals.

One of the original movers was Tom Wilkins. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, he realized that the accumulation of military collections was a valuable asset to the community and should be preserved. He approached several of us with like interests with the idea of forming an organization with the purpose of developing a museum to display and interpret these significant items for the public.

Another pioneer in this effort is Warren Wilcox, whose primary interest was to prevent Hayes Otoupalik's extensive collection from relocating to some other state. Warren's valuable contributions to insure that the museum would materialize included a generous financial gift.

From these ideas and these dollars a nucleus was formed which attracted other individual with similar interests. Out of this a museum was born.

MUSEUM INTERN WORKS ON SPRING PROJECTS

Ms. Erin Klahn has been assisting Museum operations this spring as part of the Cooperative Education administered by the University of Montana. A student in the biannual Museum Studies Class offered by UM, she has been compiling a new exhibit on women and the frontier Army and assembling a new driving tour map for the Fort's landmarks. Look for both of her projects among the Museum's offerings this summer.

IN MEMORIAM

The Museum extends its condolences to the families of Trustees Glenn L. Parmeter and John C. Moe.

Glenn served in the Navy aboard the second U.S.S. Yorktown in WW II, and later in the Army during the Vietnam War. Glenn passed away Oct. 23, 2005

John served in the Navy during WWII, and also served in the U.S. Border Patrol as a guard at the Fort Missoula detention camp. Later he was an FBI agent and Missoula County Sheriff in the 1970's. John passed away Oct. 16, 2005.

Their services and contributions will be

MUSEUM AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT BY SILVER FOUNDATION

On April 23 the F. Morris and Helen Silver Foundation announced a grant of \$10,000 to the RMMMh for the purpose of restoring and equipping the Museum's new library and classroom.

Foundation Executive Director Carolyn Sauro said the Foundation was "delighted to be of help in supporting your efforts." The assistance insures that the library/classroom will be ready for public use by late summer or early autumn.

Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster noted the generous assistance provided by the Silver Foundation in the past to the RMMMh, and expressed the Museums gratitude for this current aid.

Look for a formal opening of the library/classroom sometime later this year.

TABLE NEEDED

The Museum is looking for a good-quality conference table to place in its new library/classroom. The table will need to seat at least 20 people, and should preferably come with matching chairs. Should you have one to donate or know of someone who might want to, call 549-5346.

U1-H1 HUEY HELICOPTER IS FIRST MAJOR OUTDOOR DISPLAY

Through arrangement with the U.S. Army Tank and Automotive Command and Hayes Otoupalik, the Museum has placed on display outside the Parrish Building a U1-H1 Huey Helicopter used during the Vietnam War. The aircraft still sports the markings of its final assignment as a training craft, and the Museum intends to restore it to the general condition of a 1960's-period Army gunship.

At press time the UM ROTC Department was scheduled to restore the helicopter's external fixtures and rotor blades, and the RMMMh plans to finish the display in time for this year's 4th of July celebration at the Fort.

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: info@fortmissoula.org. We will arrange to pick them up.

MALMSTROM C.O. VISITS RMMMh

On April 19, Colonel Everett Thomas, the Commanding Officer of Malmstrom Air Force Base and the 341st Space Wing in Great Falls, visited the RMMMh.

Museum President M.Y. "Bo" Foster, along with Colonel Sam Roberts (USAF Ret.) escorted Col. Thomas and his staff through the exhibits in the Parrish Building.

Colonel Thomas is scheduled for promotion to Brigadier General and will be assuming command at Nellis AFB, Nevada this spring. He was impressed by the Museum's UH-1H helicopter display, and expressed his hope that more Malmstrom personnel would visit the Museum while in Missoula.

MUSEUM RECEIVES VALUABLE FILM COLLECTION

The Western Montana historical community was greatly saddened by the passing of Bitterroot resident Bill Gibson last year. Gibson served as a Navy photographer in World War II, documenting the Doolittle Raid and other Pacific War events. He later filmed many NASA space flights during the Gemini and Apollo programs of the 1960's. His book *No Film in my Camera* recounts these and other adventures, including an interview with Charles Lindbergh.

Harriet Gibson has generously donated the major portion of his film collection to the RMMMh, where it will be available for viewing by scholars and the general public. The bulk of the collection is on video, and the Museum hopes to open these holdings to the public in conjunction with the late-summer or early-fall inauguration of the new library/classroom.

NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Virginia Dunn - WW II uniforms
Kermit Edmonds - WW I-period U.S. Army tableware, miniature Abrams tank, book of uniform prints
Bo Foster - assorted WW II items
Gary and Gail Lancaster - WW II items, Vietnam-era magazines, Frontier-period Camera, Len McCann cavalry print
1st Lt. Stephanie Scarborough-Coy - Letters from Iraq 2004-05
Michael Schulte - U.S. Army WW I items
George Sherry - USSR military and civilian items
Ellen Thomas - WW II USMC uniforms
Dan Tichenor - WW II USMC items

deeply missed.

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 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 Mail to: PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

Please print 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: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number: _____ Date _____

E-mail address : _____ # of Windows Purchased _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

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 IS RENEWABLE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11.

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

____ Adult-----\$25.00

____ Family-----\$50.00

____ Business-----\$100.00

____ Lifetime -----\$500.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

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

E-mail address: _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to: RMMMHS

Mail to : PO Box 7263 Missoula MT 59807

YOUR SUPPORT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED.

PLEASE HELP THE MUSEUM CONTINUE TO EXPAND

WE ACCEPT ONE TIME CONTRIBUTIONS, GIFTS, OR GRANTS



RMMMMH

Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History
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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 7th 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 4TH CELEBRATION
COLLECTORS SALE!**

At the T/4 Laverne Parrish Building at Fort Missoula

Join us between 8-5, on the 4th and
see what bargains are available!

BARBECUE!!!

We'll also have our annual barbecue, on the 4th,
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 are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, in the
Parrish Building, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar of events

May 20-21 - Armed Forces Day weekend; Volunteer Days

May 29 - Memorial Day - Ceremony honoring Mideast
veterans, 2:00

June 25 - Battle of the Little Big Horn 10th Anniversary.
"Custer on Film," program Hollywood depiction's of
the battle, 3:00.

July 2 - "The Desperate Days of 1776," program on
Revolutionary War battles, 3:00

August 4-6 - 49th Annual Missoula Gun Show, Adams Center;
RMMMMH fundraising booth and raffle

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"

"The World Conflict, 1914-45"

"Bluecoats in the Big Sky: Montana, the Army, and the West
1795-1898"

*** MUSEUM HOURS: JUNE 1ST THROUGH LABOR DAY DAILY 12-5 ***