

## Getting Ready for the 50th Anniversary of the Metcalf Wilderness Act

The hard work for historians often comes before the celebration of things like the 1964 Wilderness Act, which kept vast portions of Montana and the United States wild and open to all of us.

The Montana Historical Society Research Center has launched a major effort to organize, research, and preserve its important collection of films and photographs amassed by Senator Lee Metcalf in his Washington office as a representative from 1953 to 1961 and as a senator from 1963 to his death in 1978. He was the only Senate leader pro tempore during his entire Senate career.

Over the years, films and photographs from Metcalf's office have been donated to MHS—mostly unorganized and without description or identification of the images.

MHS Research Center manager Molly Kruckenberg secured a two-year grant from the private-sector Council on Library and Information Resources to arrange, preserve, and describe the collection.

Under the grant, Matthew Peek, an archivist from Ohio, has been hired to work in the Research Center's photograph archives for the duration of the project.

The Research Center has already archived a tremendous collection of Metcalf papers that are drawn on heavily by the public and by

researchers. However, many individuals and congressmen in the films and photographs are unidentified, inhibiting the collection's usefulness, Kruckenberg said.

"The objectives of this project will be to unite all of Metcalf's photographs from the various donations into one photograph collection to allow for better

*Metcalf Collection (cont. on p. 4)*



Movie star and Montana native Myrna Loy (center) visited Senator Lee Metcalf and his wife, Donna, when she was in Washington starring in the play *Barefoot in the Park* in 1966.

MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, Pdc 2008-27 Box 2

## The Home Was Everything on the Montana Frontier

You could call their work drudgery or reminisce about the memories they made, but the early Montana homemakers featured in a new exhibit in Montana's Museum did far more than keep the home fires burning.

"Domestic Economy: Managing the Home 1890-1920" will give you a new appreciation of the conveniences around the house that people take for granted today.

"This exhibit explores the 'new' *Window on Past (cont. on p. 4)*



Zoe Ann Stoltz (left) and Sarah Nucci show off a unique pregnancy support garment in the new exhibit.

# Not an Educational Institution? Oh, Really?

BY BRUCE WHITTENBERG,  
DIRECTOR

On April 24, 2013, the sixty-third Montana Legislature adjourned sine die. Despite our best efforts and some last-minute negotiations, the legislature didn't fund the Montana Heritage Center project in this biennium. We did, however, achieve some goals in our budget that will allow the Montana Historical Society to improve its security staffing, install compact shelving in the state archives, and complete some refurbishments of the Original Governor's Mansion. The work of our staff, our trustees, and the many friends who supported the Society was heartening. I'm reminded of this 1954 comment from K. Ross Toole, the first full-time MHS director:

*The reason that one of the finest museums in the country is emerging here (and the reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast) is that we simply can't believe that full support won't be forthcoming.*

We learned from this legislative session. Spreading the word about the good work MHS does and its scope across Montana is critically important. When one legislator stated that "the Montana Historical Society is not an educational institution," it sparked our desire to set the story straight. The MHS mission statement begins, "The Montana Historical Society exists for the use of learning . . ." Still



Students listen intently to a lesson on Native American pathways in the MHS Museum. Don't try to tell them it isn't an educational institution.

don't believe that MHS is an educational institution? Here are just a few examples of the programs that make MHS an important education resource:

- MHS has provided 11,000 free copies of *Montana: Stories of the Land*, a textbook of Montana history, to 250 schools in 55 counties.
- The research center is used by 11,261 educators, authors, historians, and academics and answers 36,430 electronic requests a year.
- MHS works with the Office of Public Instruction to develop teaching aids, best practices workshops, and classroom materials for the Indian Education for All program.
- [Montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://Montanahistoricalsociety.org) contains hundreds of pages of educator resources, lesson plans, teaching aids, curriculum guides, and classroom tools.
- Historical education footlockers—40 hands-on learning trunks on 19 topics—are used by more than 15,000 students in 70 classrooms each year.
- Teacher workshops across Montana assist educators in using MHS resources in the classroom.
- More than 32,000 people attend free MHS public educational programs annually.
- Our History Listserv reaches more than 700 teachers statewide.
- The Montana History Confer-

ence draws 200 to 300 attendees each year. The 2013 conference will be in Sidney on September 19–21.

- More than 11,000 students statewide tour MHS, the Capitol, and the Original Governor's Mansion each year.
- The State Antiquities Database managed by the State Historic Preservation Office lists 53,000 properties, 30,000 cultural resource studies, and many reports used by educators and tribal and community leaders.
- The State Historic Preservation Office provides educational programming on a variety of research topics along with information on many of the more than 18,000 Montana properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Outreach and Interpretation program has created more than 1,400 interpretive signs for National Register properties.
- *Montana The Magazine of Western History* circulates in every Montana county and is used heavily by educators.

Not an educational institution? Oh, really? Come see for yourself. Or ask a history teacher. Not only is MHS an educational institution, it is *THE* educational institution for Montana. We take our mission seriously. ★

## About Us

The *Society Star* is published quarterly by the Montana Historical Society as a benefit of membership.

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SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD:  
TREASURES FROM THE SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

## Memories from Depression-Era School Annual

Every school yearbook has memories, but one donated recently to the MHS Research Center recalled “the way we were” in the Great Depression.



Only four smiling faces made up the senior class in the 1935–36 Ringling School Annual. A class history mentioned the names of other students who had started out with the class but moved on with their families as times got harder.

The annual was donated by Roberta English of Keizer, Oregon. It belonged to her aunt, Loraine Meusey, who looks determined in her photo with the caption, “A teacher in the higher grades and music.”

The annuals were individually typed and hand bound, with original photos tucked into ornate photo corners. This saved money, and the editors thanked the two girls who typed page after page. ☆

MHS has a collection of school annuals in the Research Center

### SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

## Christy Keeps Us ‘Write’

When it comes to MHS publications, Christy (Goll) Eckerle knows “write” from wrong.

As assistant editor for the Publications Program, Eckerle makes sure that *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, our books, and various other printed documents meet the high standards that you demand.

She was born in Helena and graduated from Carroll College with a dual degree in English Writing and French.

When she was sixteen, Eckerle’s grandfather gave her a diary his mother kept as a homesteader in Blaine County that strengthened her love of Montana and its history. “It is very special to me. And

I bear a remarkable resemblance to her,” she said.

In her work, Eckerle said she always looks for the connections in Montana history that help people understand their ties to the land and the shared experiences that shaped the Montana we know today.

“I have always loved Montana, and I never wanted to leave. This is a very special place. I am lucky to live here and to work at the Society,” she said.

The broad scope of Montana history, from Native Americans to mountain men to the Minuteman missile silos that dot the land today, becomes clearer to her each day, she said.

### ON THE ROAD TO MONTANA’S GREAT MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

## Celebrate Virginia City

This is the year to visit historic Virginia City and Nevada City to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Alder Gulch.

Events are planned all summer long, and you can log on to <http://www.virginiacitymt.com> for a complete list. History and historic buildings abound in what became Montana’s first territorial capital.

The Montana Historical Society worked hard to keep the towns in the public domain and still works with the Montana Heritage Commission to maintain and interpret their historical significance for Montana. Strike some gold in your summer adventures! ☆



Christy Eckerle makes sure we write for you.

“I like to help share that with all those who read our magazines and publications,” she said.

In her spare time, Eckerle loves to traverse the land she loves. “I like to rock climb. I like to hike. I like to be outdoors in Montana,” she said. ☆

*Metcalf Collection* (cont. from p. 1)  
access, as well as to re-house all the photographs in appropriate archival enclosures,” Peek said. “The films will be researched, preserved, and re-housed as well.”

The grant provides the resources necessary to spend time researching, identifying, and preserving all of the materials in the collections.

“The work will help shed new light on future projects related to Lee Metcalf, such as the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, for whose passage Senator Metcalf was largely responsible,” Kruckenberg said.

When completed, the Metcalf Photograph and Film Collections will be available at the MHS Research Center, and the finding aids will be accessible through the Northwest Digital Archives and the Montana Shared Catalog.

“This project will allow for greater access to a vital visual resource documenting the history of Senator Metcalf and other Montana congressmen in relation to Montana politics; environmentalism and conservationism; education advocacy; civil and equal rights; Native American relations and the return of rights to Native Americans; and other major issues and events of the mid-twentieth century,” Peek said.

Updates on the project, including short historical pieces on Metcalf featuring interesting photographs from his collection, will be posted periodically on the MHS blog *Montana History Revealed* and in various MHS newsletters and publications available at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org).

“We are excited about this project and know that teachers, students, universities, scholars, and the general public will benefit greatly from the increased access to Metcalf’s photographs and films,” Kruckenberg said. ⚡



Senator Lee Metcalf (right) was at home in places like the Helena National Forest, where he entertained a crowd sawing a tree with then-regional forester Charles Tebbe in 1957.

*Window on Past* (cont. from p. 1)  
science of Home Economics and some of the most popular features of this topic like food, clothing, and home health care, which were important parts of how a home was expected to be efficiently managed,” MHS curator of history Sarah Nucci said.

A homestead-era kitchen leads



Those who attended the opening of the new “Domestic Economy” exhibit were encouraged to wear historic aprons by the sponsor, Rocky Mountain Credit Union.

into the new exhibit, which includes a wide range of artifacts that people needed to survive on the frontier.

Early homesteaders typically lived miles from the closest doctor or medical professional, which meant they often had to wait many hours or even days before help arrived. The exhibit features an example of a small medical kit most homesteaders kept handy.

“These early homesteaders and their neighbors were often the only medical help that was available,” said MHS reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz, who helped create the exhibit. “Childbirth was often only attended by older, experienced, female neighbors.”

As home economic science developed, books and other manuals taught homesteaders how to make their lives better and easier.

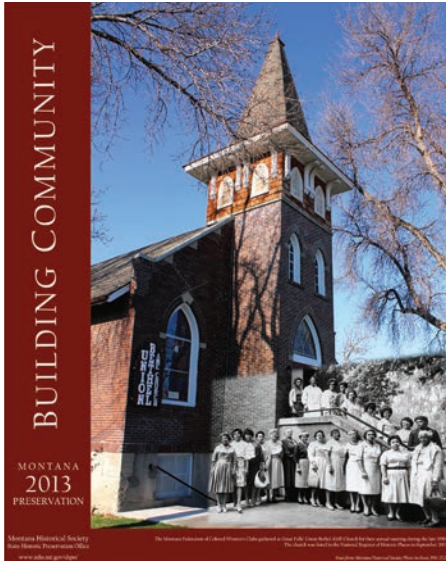
One of the highlights of the exhibit—especially for the curators—is a 1905 maternity dress loaned by Rachel Fischer, originally from Wibaux. “We were very excited because maternity dresses from that era are rare and we didn’t have one in our collections,” Nucci said.

The exhibit will be up until spring 2014. ⚡



## SHPO Poster Honors Montana's Black History

This year's Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office poster is a tribute to the role of African Americans in Montana history.



As a special offer to the great readers of the *Society Star*, you can order a poster free of charge by e-mailing Tammy at [tendersn2@mt.gov](mailto:tendersn2@mt.gov).

Each year, the State Historic Preservation Office produces a

poster to celebrate a particular theme in Montana history.

The Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Great Falls and the Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs are featured on this year's poster. Constructed in 1917, the church stands as a testament to the development and endurance of the black communities in the state. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, it is one of the earliest and longest-used African American churches in Montana.

The inset historic photo, from the Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives, features the ladies of the Montana Federation of Colored Women's Clubs gathered for their annual meeting during the late 1950s. Part of the Federation, the Dunbar Art and Study Club in Great Falls was a "fellowship of women whose aim it was to further education, to broaden contact, and work in unity for the community." The motto of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, "lifting as we climb," aptly reflects their

commitment to improve the welfare of all black people.

For more information about the church, the women's clubs, and several of the remarkable women in the photo, please visit our web page, <http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo>. In addition, the Montana Historical Society maintains an interactive web page with links to African American heritage resources: <http://mhs.mt.gov/research/AfricanAmerican/AfricanAmericanInMT.asp>. ☼

## Rostad Honored for Service on MHS Board of Trustees

In 1997, Governor Marc Racicot appointed Lee Rostad to the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees.

After being reappointed by Governor Judy Martz and then by Governor Brian Schweitzer, Rostad has now decided to retire from the board. "The fact that she was appointed by both Republican and Democratic governors is a tribute to Rostad's dedication to working for all of the people of Montana," said Montana Historical Society director Bruce Whittenberg.

Rostad's experience as a rancher, teacher, writer, potter, painter, and historian provided a broad perspective on the Board of Trustees that will be missed, Whittenberg said.

After graduating from the University of Montana in 1951, Rostad was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of London. She also served on the Montana Committee for the Humanities and as chair of the Charles M. Bair Family Trust.

In 2005, Rostad was awarded a Willa Literary Award for her book *Grace Stone Coates: Her Life in Letters*. Her latest book is *The House of Bair: Sheep, Cadillacs and Chippendale*. ☼



MHS reference historian Zoe Ann Stoltz (left) receives the Interagency Committee for Change by Women State Government Award for Excellence in Leadership from Lt. Gov. John Walsh, Betty Huckins, and Casey Kyler-West. Stoltz was praised for encouraging and providing research support to women to move into leadership roles.

# 40th Annual Montana History Conference

Mark September 19–21 on your calendar to attend the 40th annual Montana History Conference in Sidney.

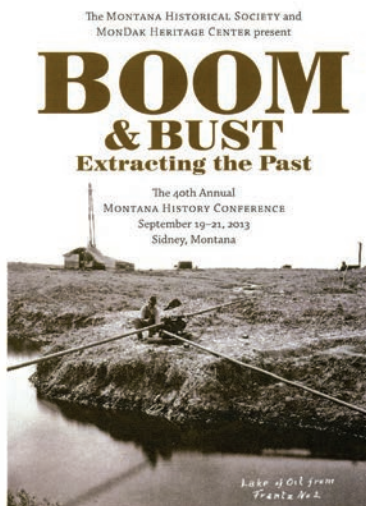
The theme of this year’s conference is “Boom and Bust! Extracting the Past.” With the resurgence of the oil business in eastern Montana and western North Dakota, the topics will help people under-

stand the mistakes of resource extraction made in the past as well as the culture of boomtown communities.

The Society is working with the MonDak Heritage Center in putting the conference together. Other Montana history topics and special tours and events will take place throughout the conference.

If you have attended a history conference before, you know you are in for a great educational time. If you haven’t, this is your chance to join the fun.

For more information or to register, contact Kirby Lambert at (406) 444-4741, email [klambert@mt.gov](mailto:klambert@mt.gov), or go online to [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org). ☀



## MHS Volunteers' Time Worth More than Money

The Friends of the Montana Historical Society were honored in a ceremony recently for their incredible service to the public and to Montana heritage.

“On any given day at the Montana Historical Society you can walk the hallways and offices and find our volunteers performing vital services to our shared history that simply couldn’t be done without their help. They are amazing people,” MHS director Bruce Whittenberg said.

The volunteers do everything from leading school tours to organizing and making food for events and from working with collections to assisting in countless other ways. ☀



## Stinking Water Times

What’s in a name? Well, if you are a newspaper owner, you have to have a lot of confidence to give your readers a built-in way to criticize your stories.

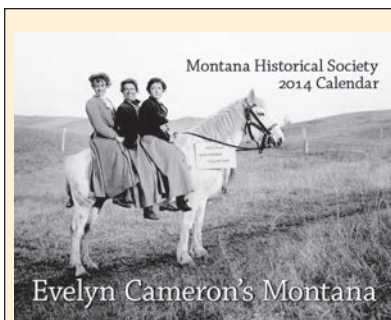
While working on her newspaper digitalization project, Christine Kirkham came across this copy of the *Stinking Water Prospector* that was published in Red Lodge in 1891. It was the first issue published.

Although the Montana Historical Society Research Center has about 95 percent of all the newspapers ever published in Montana, this is the only “Stinking” issue in the collection. If you have other copies of this paper, or

know more about it, please contact the Research Center Library at (406) 444-2681 or go online to [mhslibrary@mt.gov](mailto:mhslibrary@mt.gov).

It is believed that the paper was named after the Stinking Water River, which is now known as the Ruby River. However, there is another Stinking Water River in Wyoming. Because it was devoted to mining news in southwest Montana, most think it was named for what is now the Ruby River.

Old newspapers are one of the best ways to look back into the past. If you are interested in looking at historic copies of other Montana newspapers, visit <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>. ☀



This new 2014 MHS Membership Calendar “Evelyn Cameron’s Montana” is available in the Museum Store now—and they go fast! While shopping there or online, you can also get a DVD “Evelyn Cameron: Pictures from a Worthy Life”; two books, *Photographing Montana, 1894–1928*, and *Evelyn Cameron: Montana’s Frontier Photographer*; and a new bookmark laminated with three Cameron photographs and a short biography. And just in is *Evelyn Cameron’s Montana*, a postcard tear-out book with thirty-two photographs from the MHS collection.

Call 1-800-243-9900 or shop online at [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org).





Tom Mulvaney shows one of the many railroad-related postcards in his collection to BNSF officials as MHS director Bruce Whittenberg (center) and Research Center manager Molly Kruckenberg look on. MHS is raising funds to acquire the collection.

## Mulvaney Post Card Acquisition Funds on Track

You've been hearing a lot about the Mulvaney historic postcard collection—that's because it's important.

Tom Mulvaney spent 30 years collecting nearly 32,000 historic postcards dating from 1898 into the 1970s and covering a wide range of Montana topics.

We are getting closer to being able to purchase that entire collection, which has been professionally appraised at \$436,767. With the help of the Montana History Foundation and scores of donors, MHS now needs only \$50,000 more.

Many gifts for the postcard collection have been received. The BNSF Railway Foundation recently contributed \$10,000. The collection helps tell the role of railroads in Montana. Matthew Jones, BNSF spokesman, said, "This is a way for us to give back to all of the communities across

Montana, many of which were created because of the railroads and their routes across the state."

After seeing an article on the collection in the *Great Falls Tribune*, a representative of the Thelma H. and John J. Zeller Family Trust sent a \$10,500 contribution. Thelma Zeller, age 87, also has a deep interest in Montana history.

Thelma worked 43 years for Burlington Northern and its predecessor, the Great Northern Railroad. Starting as a stenographer, Thelma's jobs included clerk, typist, Comptometer operator, and inventory clerk. She was instrumental in forming the BN-Great Falls Employee Credit Union in 1969 and the Employees Club of BN Workers in 1980.

To date, contributions for the collection have been received from more than 100 donors—and thank you all!

*Help bring the train into the*

## Membership: First Door on the Left

BY MEMBERSHIP  
COORDINATOR

REBECCA BAUMANN.....

History teaches us many things. One is not to make the mistake of not becoming an MHS member.

We encourage you to continue to enjoy stories of Montana's amazing and colorful history, including the beauty of its artwork and the artifacts that bring those stories to life.

History is today at MHS. We continue to archive collections and to post more historic resources online. New educational opportunities are continually being created for you to enjoy and learn from. Thought-provoking books, articles, and, of course, our award-winning magazine are being developed all year long. Staffers are planning new and intriguing museum exhibits. Our most recent exhibit is *Domestic Economy: Managing the Home, 1890-1920*, which is so real it leaves you exhausted.

I'm sure you would agree that there is nothing mundane about history. On the contrary, history is exciting, surprising, and makes us curious for more. Please take an opportunity to come and celebrate history with us. If you do, please stop by and say "Hi." I'm the first door on the left! As always, please think of a gift membership for those you truly care about and help show them how amazing Montana history can be! ★

*station!* Our goal is to complete fundraising by the end of 2013. If you'd like to donate, please contact Susan Near, Development & Marketing Officer, at (406) 444-4713 or snear@mt.gov. ★

