

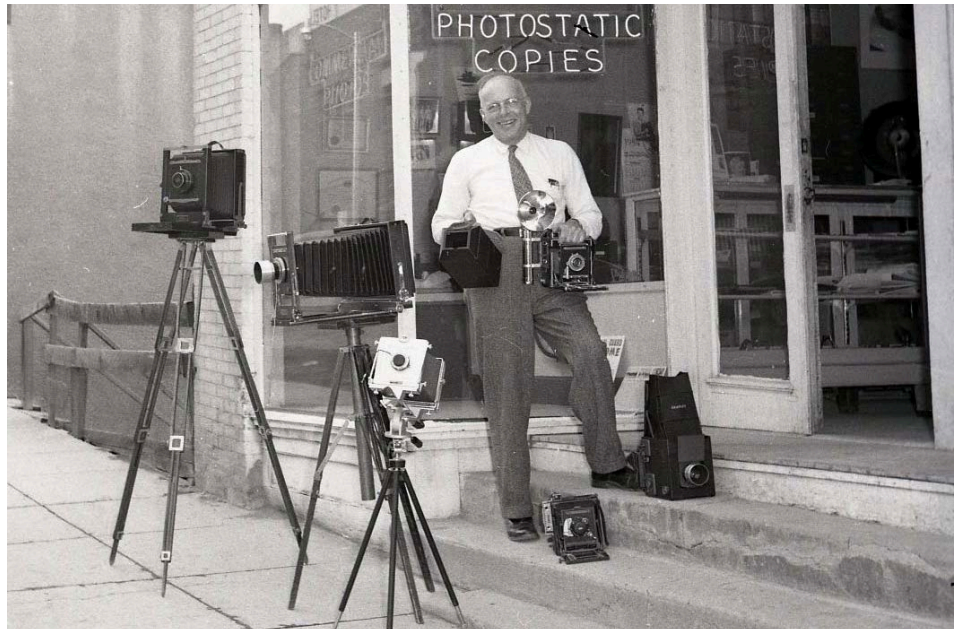
MHS Photo Archives Processes Largest Photo Collection in Montana: The Leslie Jorud Photograph Collection

“His picture career has taken him into a cage with five lions, 275 feet up inside the smokestack at the AS&R smelter in East Helena, into morgues and operating rooms, into the wilderness alone with a nervous horse who wanted to go home, up in a bucket over Canyon Ferry dam, down into mines, up steep mine shafts, in airplanes and to all the major events in Helena during the past 41 years.” So said Helena reporter Dorothy Larimer in 1955 when she summarized the prolific and long career of Helena commercial photographer Leslie Jorud.

Born in Helena in 1899, Les Jorud photographed Montana’s capital city from 1916 until his retirement in 1969. Jorud and his camera became a fixture among community and school groups looking to document their activities, businesses hoping to illustrate their ads, and government agencies seeking to share their work with the public.

Photographically documenting one community for more than fifty years is a remarkable feat. Equally remarkable is the fact that Jorud methodically maintained his negative collection—numbering more than 70,000—for five decades!

Jorud’s collection was first loaned to the MHS Photo Archives in 2001 and became the property of the Society by the end of 2006. We believe it to be the largest intact historical photograph collection amassed by a single photographer



Leslie H. Jorud posing with seven of his ten cameras, Helena, 1955, Dorothy Larimer photographer, MHS Lot 037 JOR 1955.01

in Montana.

Long-term preservation and accessibility required that the collection be rehoused, organized, and described in detail. In fall 2017, Photo Archives technician Pam Smith, Photo Archives manager Jeff Malcolmson, and volunteers Jeff Sillick, DiAnne Mantz, Nancy Ewers, and Becca Kohl began the daunting task. Over two years later, they are approaching the completion of this massive processing project!

The Leslie Jorud Photograph Collection, now designated Lot 037, is organized into twelve different series, which include Commercial Businesses (11,466 negatives; 986 prints), Individuals and Families

(11,309 negatives; 543 prints), Private Organizations (9,562 negatives; 1,108 prints), Schools (10,295 negatives; 573 prints), and Weddings (12,576 negatives; 342 prints).

The finding aid for the Jorud Collection is not currently available online, but it is searchable by staff upon request. Work has now begun on digitizing hundreds, and eventually thousands, of the endangered nitrate and diacetate negatives in the collection. Throughout 2020 these digitized Jorud images will be made available through our online database on the Montana Memory Project, called “Photographs from the Montana Historical Society.” 🌟

It's time to build a new Montana Heritage Center

The legislation that provided funding for the new Montana Heritage Center, the Montana Museums Act of 2020 (SB 338), also required the state to conduct a site selection study. After months of data gathering and thoughtful evaluation in an open, public process, consulting architects Cushing Terrell (formerly CTA) presented a comprehensive report to John Lewis, director of the Department of Administration, who was charged with choosing the heritage center's future home. On December 12, 2019, Director Lewis announced that renovation and expansion will occur on a three-block area adjacent to the state capitol, referred to as the Sixth and Roberts site.

With a funding mechanism in place—including new revenue from the accommodations tax, the issue of bonds, and contributions from private sources—the \$52.2 million project is now ready for the design and building phases. We have an exciting few years ahead as the dream becomes a reality!

I have excerpted here from Director Lewis's determination letter on his rationale for selection of the site:

“Being Responsible Stewards of Taxpayer Investment”

During the site evaluation process, two options emerged: Build a new building to house both the Montana Historical Society (MHS) and the Heritage Center. This would require an additional \$35–42 million dollars of legislative and/or private funding. Split the Heritage Center into two locations. MHS would continue to operate out of the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, while the Heritage Center would function in the new building. This would require purchasing new land, increase operational costs, and adversely impact MHS's



mission and function. The most responsible use of taxpayer dollars provided by the 2019 Legislature is to take advantage of existing state resources by renovating the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building and connecting it to a new facility at the state-owned 6th and Roberts site.

“Advancing the Capitol Complex Master Plan”

Locating the new Heritage Center on the Capitol Complex aligns it with the vision set forth in the Capitol Complex Master Plan. This plan includes increased parking, improved walkability, and more green space. Placing the new Heritage Center here will make it easier for visitors to experience both Montana's Museum and the Capitol together. In addition, legislators, educators/students, and the general public will be able to better utilize the space for meetings . . . and other gatherings. As the Site Evaluation Report found, the 6th and Roberts location will actually provide more parking than other options and allow for future expansion.

“Meeting The MHS Mission”

The Historical Society's mission to promote understanding and appreciation of Montana's cultural

heritage is best fulfilled by working alongside the Heritage Center. The archives and artifacts housed within MHS must be continually referenced by the Heritage Center staff. A split campus would mean that invaluable artifacts would need to be transported between two locations, increasing the risk of damage and destruction . . .

We know that not everyone supported the Sixth and Roberts site, but we trust that those who love Montana history can now unite and that we'll be able to move forward together to make the dream of a new Montana Heritage Center a reality. To learn more and to follow the project through the design and build phase, please visit <https://heritagecenter.mt.gov/>. 🌟

About Us

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

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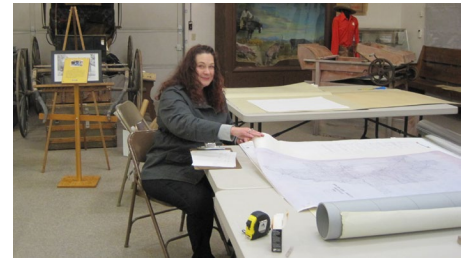
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montanahistoricalsociety.org

Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board Awards Blitz! Grant to Townsend Museum

This past fall, the Broadwater County Museum received the 2019 SHRAB Blitz! grant, which supports in-house archival training and hands-on collection care. Museum director Linda Huth applied for the grant and hosted the workshop. She was joined by State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) members Heather Hultman, Anne Foster, and Kathryn Kramer; MHS archives staff Anneliese Warhank,

April Sparks, and Jodie Foley; and five local volunteers who worked throughout the week of November 11 cleaning, repairing, rehousing, and cataloging nearly one hundred historic maps of Broadwater County and the surrounding region. The Blitz! is funded each year by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the grant-funding arm of the National Archives. ⚙



SHRAB member Anne Foster prepares to repair a county map as part of the archives Blitz! held at the Broadwater County Museum.

Delivering Digital Programs with Art Collections: 2019 Smithsonian Affiliations Visiting Professionals Program

BY KENDRA NEWHALL,
SENIOR REGISTRAR

In October the Smithsonian Affiliations brought together a cohort of mid-level professionals from across the affiliate network for a two-week program. The program consisted of a mix of presentations by Smithsonian staff, small-group learning, site visits with deep dives into Smithsonian resources, individual reflection, problem-solving exercises, and interactive learning activities.

The goal of the program was to equip participants with the necessary skills to create buy-in, lead “change management” at their organization, and bring home the tools and strategies to effectively address and implement a challenge that we each set for ourselves.

My challenge: How might we raise awareness of MHS’s Poindexter Collection of Modern Art through the use of digital technology? (To learn more about the collection, visit <https://www.pinterest.com/montanahistory/poindexter-collection-of-modern-art/>.)

We were encouraged to explore our challenge through the lens of the “Invention Process.”

Think It – What problem are we trying to solve?

Explore It – Have other people tried to solve this problem?

Sketch It – Can you draw it?

Create It – Create a prototype or a real-life example of your idea.

Try It – Test your invention. What works well?

Tweak It – How can you improve your prototype?

Sell It – Create buy-in with stakeholders.

At the same time, we were encouraged to think about the importance of building a network of colleagues, then managing and sustaining the network to identify the problem, conduct research, create a model, test the invention, refine the solution, and market the invention. If successful, the end result would be buy-in from stakeholders and the creation of new champions for the project, both internally and externally.

I went into the program thinking the problem was choosing the right digital tool. I quickly realized the problem was raising awareness



MHS senior registrar Kendra Newhall, center, “invents a new kind of airplane” as part of the Smithsonian Affiliations Visiting Professionals Program.

for the Poindexter Collection. The digital tool would help solve the problem. Knowing the problem allowed me to begin asking questions: Who is the target audience? How can we raise awareness? Who will be our stakeholders and champions for the project? What digital platform will we use to reach the target audience? How will we manage and maintain the digital tool, and does there need to be a sunset plan? What will be our metric for success?

Most importantly, I realized that starting small and using the resources already at our disposal is a good place to begin. ⚙

The 2020 Calendar: Corrections

Members should all have received our 2020 calendar celebrating Montana women. The calendar's theme was chosen to commemorate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted most women the right to vote. (As resounding as this suffrage victory was, it was incomplete. Most African American and American Indian women, for example, remained disenfranchised until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.)

The caption for the August photograph of the Montana League of Women Voters booth at the Montana State Fair misidentified Blackfeet chief Eagle Calf, who is pictured signing the league's petition for a reduction of world armaments. We regret the error and are thankful that his grandson Leo Davis contacted us so we can correct our records. As Davis noted, the picture depicts "my paternal great-great-grandfather, John Ground. His Piikani name is Pii tone 'iss staaa, Eagle Calf, a Carlisle Indian school survivor . . . he returned to his people as one of the more reliable interpreters, surveyors, and later a successful rancher. John and his

wife Mary were election judges after we received the right to vote. Their daughter, Cecile, was the first woman to register voters on the Blackfeet reservation and worked on many campaigns. He is a patriarch and ever-mentioned hero in our family's long-lasting legacy here in the State of Montana."

Several people also contacted us objecting to our inclusion of the photo of the mandolin club at the Fort Shaw Indian Boarding School (the November image). Some members of this club were also players on the school's celebrated girls' basketball team that, in 1904, traveled to the St. Louis World's Fair, where they beat the Missouri All-Stars to become world champions. Our intention was to honor the young women's resilience and to celebrate their achievements as champions of the world. However, as our critics have noted, we also should have contextualized the image. Since the calendar has already been published, we will do that here: The primary mission of off-reservation boarding schools was forced assimilation. Boarding schools like Fort Shaw were designed to strip Indian students of their cultures,



Blackfeet chief Eagle Calf, pictured here, was misidentified in MHS's 2020 member calendar as Eagle Cap. MHS PAC 87-103.F4

languages, and religions (acts the United Nations has now defined as cultural genocide). For more information on all of the photographs featured in the calendar, visit <https://mhs.mt.gov/Membership/Calendar/CalendarLinks>. 🌟

Carroll College Intern Assists Archives and Outreach and Interpretation Programs

Gus Krier-Ness, a Carroll College senior in history, spent the fall semester interning with the Archives and Sites and Signs staff. In the Archives program, Krier-Ness, who is interested in studying law, worked on legal case files in a Department of Justice Legal Services records collection. He also assisted with creation of an inventory of unprocessed records to improve access

to these collections. In addition, Krier-Ness researched and wrote brief introductory text for four new themed tours posted on Historic Montana, MHS's National Register signs website. Readers can find those tours, which focus on schoolhouses, courthouses, Works Progress Administration buildings, and U.S. Forest Service buildings, at <https://historicmt.org>. 🌟



Staff Changes at SHPO

Melissa Munson brings a diverse background and skillset to her new position as the administrative assistant at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in biology and botanical sciences, Munson explored a wide range of professional endeavors. She has worked in natural resource management and research, outreach and education, communication design and production, residential building construction, dance instruction, and more. Before joining the SHPO team, Munson operated a creative services business in Helena's historic district, where she lives with her husband, two daughters, and two bird-hunting dogs.



Melissa Munson

After working for the past five years as the State Historic Preservation Office review and compliance officer, **Jessica Bush** was hired this fall as the new state archaeologist. Bush has a Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Montana and has

spent the majority of her career studying Great Plains archaeology. In her role as state archaeologist, she will expand her duties to include public outreach and education, research, and the creation of compliance guidelines. She looks forward to serving the people of Montana in this new position. ★



Jessica Bush

One Thousand Is a Lot!

This fall, the MHS Research Center obtained its one-thousandth Montana cookbook. Hobson's celebratory 2008 *Pride of the Judith* cookbook is a gem! The authors included everything necessary for a coveted community cookbook, including family information, personal commentaries, photographs, and recipes. They also gave more than a nod to local history by featuring advertisers and recipes from the *Ladies Aid Cook Book* published by the nearby Moccasin Presbyterian Church in 1920.

Two decades ago, MHS's cookbook collection consisted of less than one hundred volumes. Then, in 2002, Maureen Hathaway donated almost three hundred community cookbooks from across the Treasure State. Since that time, the collection has grown, usually a few volumes at a time, but sizable contributions from collectors Carol Power Gilluly and Bessie Kocar Eggum added significantly to our holdings.

To date, the 1881 *Montana Cook Book Edited by the Ladies of Butte City* is the oldest book in the collection. Contributors hailed from Walkerville, Meaderville, Deer Lodge, and Helena. Other collection highlights include a ca. 1907 Red Lodge Cook Book compiled by the Ladies Society of the Congregational Church; a ca. 1927 Montana Federation of Negro Women's Clubs Cook Book (now on display in Washington, D.C., at the National Museum of African American History & Culture); multiple homestead-era editions of *Daily Bread* sponsored by the "Home Workers" Society of the First Presbyterian Church in Lewistown; the 1968 and 1969 Blackfeet Cookbooks coordinated by the Blackfeet Vista Workers; and the Miles City Range Reps' 1976 *Grandma's Favorite Recipes*. The Yaak Women's Club's 1999 *Yaak Cookbook* proudly documents the northwest Montana valley's culture with photos, contributors' names,

and the chapter "Recipes Native to the Yaak"—like wine-drenched Cougar Casserole followed with Huckleberry Buckle!

Community cookbooks—also known as fundraising and charitable cookbooks—not only document Montana foodways, but they also offer insight into local society, evolving culture, and family histories and provide access into countless women's lives and kitchens. The collection holds great value to cooks and scholars alike. ★



Pride of the Judith is the one-thousandth publication to be added to MHS's Montana cookbook collection.

Rainbow Powerhouse, Missouri River, Cascade County

Great Falls area preservationists are feeling elated with the apparent preservation of the historic Rainbow Dam Powerhouse. The imposing 1910 brick structure had been slated for demolition in 2009 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted NorthWestern Energy permission to replace it with a state-of-the-art powerhouse. In its heyday, Rainbow was one of five hydropower operations that transmitted electricity from the Great Falls of the Missouri River to Butte's copper mines and Anaconda's smelter, over one hundred miles away. This constant source of cheap energy was a key component in the Montana Power Company's operations.

In 2011, the ad hoc Old Rainbow Powerhouse Repurposing Committee (ORPRC) formed to save this historic gem by attracting a new use for the building. Two years later, at ORPRC's request, NorthWestern Energy generously

funded a reuse feasibility study that identified great potential for the resilient building with its cathedral-like interior. The structure's location within a federally licensed hydroelectric facility, however, presented challenges including highly restricted access, compatibility issues with ongoing hydropower generation, and acquiring FERC permission for an unorthodox endeavor.

By early 2018, ORPRC identified high-tech firm Susteen, Inc. of Irvine, California, as a potential tenant. Susteen viewed each of the site's perceived obstacles as beneficial to a highly secure data center. NorthWestern Energy accepted Susteen's plan in July. The powerhouse's preservation quickly won the support of local elected officials, and in August, Montana's congressional delegation wrote a joint letter of support for the project to FERC chairman Neil Chatterjee. FERC issued an order in October approving Susteen's use of the powerhouse.



The Rainbow Dam Powerhouse as it currently appears from the downstream side, ready to assume a new role in Great Falls's ongoing development.

Susteen's chief technology officer Tom Sanders says his company has full funding for the project and is now developing a plan for reuse of the powerhouse. While there is still work to be done before Susteen begins operations, preservationists are calling this project an unqualified success, and ORPRC members are optimistic for the powerhouse's future. 🌟

Montana Women's History Matters Facebook Page Celebrates Suffrage Centennial

On August 2, 1919, Montana became the thirteenth state to ratify the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, which simply read, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." It became the Twentieth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution a little over a year later, when Tennessee became the thirty-sixth state to ratify it, on August 18, 1920.

Most Montana women had already won the right to vote six years earlier, in 1914, although full voting rights for American Indian women remained a painful fifty-five years in the future. In recognition of

the 2014 centennial, the Montana Historical Society created Women's History Matters, a multifaceted project designed to promote an increased appreciation and understanding of the role of women in the Treasure State's past. Part of the project was the Montana Women's History Matters Facebook page, which provided bite-sized vignettes on individuals, organizations, and themes—from Buffalo Calf Road Woman, who fought in the Rosebud and Little Bighorn battles, to the Livingston women who found jobs on the railroad during World War I.

MHS stopped adding new material to the Facebook page at the end of 2016, but the page's continuing

popularity and the desire to commemorate the 2020 centennial led to the decision to resume posting. If you are on Facebook, we hope you'll follow Montana Women's History Matters where, for the next year, we'll be highlighting the stories of Montana women's lives—both relating to the suffrage fight and to the everyday realities that make up Montana women's history. And while you are on Facebook, make sure you like our other pages: the Society's main page (@MontanaHistoricalSociety) and pages for the store (@MHSMuseumStore) and magazine (@MontanaTheMagazineofWesternHistory). 🌟

Hard to Say Goodbye

Barbara Pepper-Rotness retired from the Research Center on December 6, 2019. She worked thirty years in state government, starting her career at the Montana State Library. She joined the MHS staff as the Library Technician in 2003. Barb enjoyed working on the reference desk and was our go-to person when there was a challenging mining question. Barb's other duties included accessioning new items into the collection, checking in newspapers and, most recently, working with the Social Media Committee. Her quick wit, sense of adventure, and dogged determination to find that elusive answer to a reference question will be missed. We wish her the best in her retirement.



Barbara Pepper-Rotness

This past November, administrative assistant **Joy Lewis** retired after five years with MHS. Joy kept the director's office running smoothly, worked with the board of trustees, provided clerical support for the Outreach and Interpretation program, and assisted with special projects including the annual

Montana History Conference and MHS's Heritage Keeper Awards. "I'm happy for Joy in her retirement," MHS director Bruce Whittenberg noted, "but I already miss her efficiency and, most of all, sense of humor. It was fun to work with her!" 🌟



Joy Lewis

From the Museum Store: The Life and Art of Joseph Henry Sharp

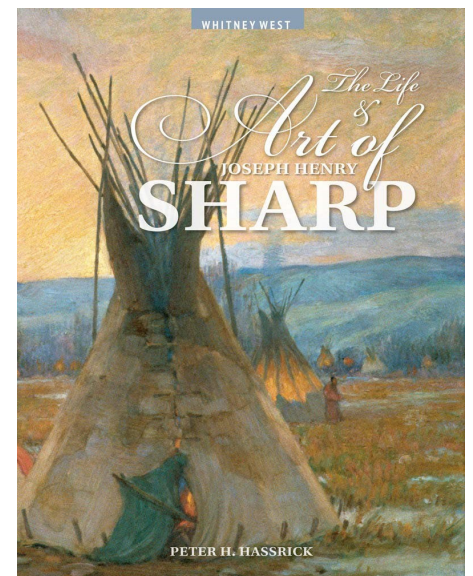
BY RODRIC COSLET, MUSEUM STORE MANAGER

Looking for a great read with gorgeous illustrations? We've got you covered with *The Life and Art of Joseph Henry Sharp*, edited by the late Peter Hassrick. Hassrick, who was a renowned Western art historian and a great friend to the Montana Historical Society, also published the article "Celebrating the 'Real Americans': The Indian Paintings of Joseph Henry Sharp" in the Autumn 2019 issue of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

This volume—with essays contributed by Marie Watkins, Sarah E. Boehme, Kelin Michael, and Karen B. McWhorter in addition to Hassrick—marks a fresh inspection of who Sharp was, how and where he trained as a painter, why he selected the nation's western Native population as a primary subject, what impact his imagery had on audiences across the continent, and how his production as a

painter of what he referred to as the "real Americans" differed from that of his contemporary peers.

The book is based on the collections of Wyoming's Buffalo Bill Center of the West, which has a substantial collection of Joseph Sharp's work as well as a set of Sharp's papers, an extensive archive gifted by the artist's primary chronicler, Forrest Fenn of Santa Fe. Beyond the pages of this book, and in conjunction with its findings and insights about Sharp, the Center has also produced an online catalogue of some seven hundred examples of the artist's paintings held in public collections. The repositories of these works span the country from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, with an obvious wellspring held by institutions in the West and Midwest. Readers who avail themselves of this volume's additional electronic chapter will be rewarded with a vast and



compelling compendium of Sharp's treasured paintings from over fifty museums, foundations, and libraries around the country.

This new title and more can be ordered online at www.montana-historicalsociety.org or by calling the Museum Store at (800) 243-9900 or (406) 444-2890. 🌟

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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Employees of the Kessler Brewing Company, Helena, ca. 1890, Arthur Canning
photographer, MHS 953-061

The Society's newest temporary exhibit,
"Good Beer Here: Montana's Brewing
Industry," opens Thursday, February
27. Don't miss the opportunity to learn
about the state's long brewing history!

