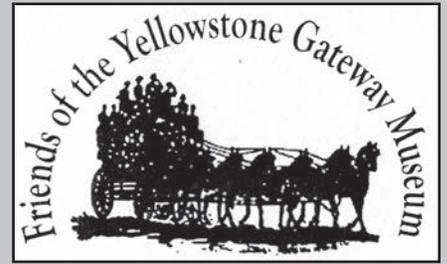




News from the Red Caboose

FALL 2017



It's People Who Make a Museum

By Paul Shea, Director

Forty years ago this summer a group of dedicated volunteers opened a new museum in the North Side School. It was called the House of Memories. It was the latest in their work to establish a museum for Park County.

The journey began on May 15, 1964 with the establishment of the Park County Museum Association. Claude Hookham, Howard Strong, George Ommundsen, and Viola Wood formed a group and moved forward with the idea of establishing a museum. The group solicited memberships to build up funds. Later that year they held their first annual meeting to discuss possible sites for a museum.

In 1967, Fred Martin offered his Livingston Post building to the group for a sum of \$5,000. That was beyond the fundraising abilities of the association at that time and the building was purchased by the Blue Slipper Theater. But, the group was

allowed to set up exhibits on the second floor so play goers could view them when a play was being staged. It was at this time that they started to collect items and memorabilia.

In September 1967 a committee

and others advised the group about the classification and display of artifacts. The exhibits were moved from the Blue Slipper to the school. Local businesses donated new cases and several local people donated artifacts, adding to the growing museum.

This museum operated from June 1968 until August 1974. It was open each summer day, except Sunday, in the afternoon and evening. Bertha Gould donated her time to open the museum at other times and for groups by appointment.

In August 1974 the school board asked the museum to vacate the West Side School and the exhibits and

artifacts were moved to a basement room in the Lincoln School. Bud Gibson, Bill Killorn, Bill Whithorn, Gladys Stermitz, and Georgia Julian set up exhibits there but the space was too small.

Another year passed before the association made an attempt
(continued on page 2)



In true Warren McGee style, he documents the museum board's first meeting on May 4, 1976, writing names on his photograph.

consisting of Dr. David Colmey, Vince VanAken, and Gladys Stermitz met with the school board about the possible use of the West Side School. In April 1968 they received a lease for two of the rooms in the West Side School for \$30 a month. Dr. Merrill Burlingame of MSU, John Fryer,

(continued from page 1)
to find another place for the museum. Several buildings were considered: the former Frontier Home (the Lott Hospital) on the corner of Callender and Yellowstone, the Libby home at Clark and Yellowstone, an old garage in the 100 block of South Second Street, and the Pritchard house on the corner of Callender and E Streets, but none was adequate. Finally, the museum group set their sights on the North Side School which had been closed since May 1971.

After a series of meetings, the school board agreed to sell the building to the association. In May 1976 the school board set a price of \$10,000 for the building and the lots on which it stood at 118 W. Chinook Street. The County Commissioners put up \$5,000 and in mid-July a reunion of Park High graduates from the classes of 1915-16-17 collected a \$3,900 gift for the association. New directors were elected: George Ommundsen, President; Les Carter, Vice President; Gladys Stermitz, secretary; Jay Gleason, Treasurer; Warren McGee, Historian; and Nina Killorn, Tom Skillman, Doris Whithorn, Geoffrey Skillman, Bud Gibson, Phyllis Sullivan, Viola Wood, Andrus Laubach, and Dean Gilbert rounded out the directors. David DePuy acted as lawyer for the group.

A Yellowstone stagecoach was donated to the museum in July 1976 by Burlington Northern Railroad. The following fall and winter, work was done on the interior of the North Side School,

including a basement apartment (now office and storage space) for Bill and Doris Whithorn,



George Ommundsen presiding during the June 1, 1977 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the House of Memories, now the Yellowstone Gateway Museum.
Photo by Warren McGee.

museum caretakers. Walls were built, collections were moved from storage at the Lincoln School to the museum, and exhibits were fabricated upstairs. Led by the efforts of Vince VanAken, an 1899 Northern Pacific Railway caboose was moved to its final resting place in February 1977 on the museum's front lawn and was refurbished.

On June 1, 1977 the House of Memories was opened to the public. Warren McGee spearheaded the construction of a two-story building behind the museum in 1979, including large garage bays for exhibits and a full-length storage facility on the top floor. People donated more artifacts and archival materials to the museum and storage was (and

still is) crucial. The Peter Vink Blacksmith Shop was donated and moved to the museum in July 1997 and the one-room Urbach Schoolhouse was added to the outdoor exhibits in 2000.

Two years later, the first full-time Director was hired. In March 2003 the board of directors changed the museum's name to the Yellowstone Gateway Museum. The museum now stood on the brink of becoming a quality asset to Park County.

Beginning in 2010 the museum underwent major renovations with the addition of a heating and cooling system, enabling the museum to be open year-round—especially important for visiting school groups. The entire museum was re-interpreted and new exhibits installed. The archives were assembled in one place making them more accessible for research by staff and the public.

The museum has become a true interpretive center—providing exhibits that showcase the citizens of Park County and using collections to enhance storylines. The research room provides not only the information needed to make our exhibits professional and historically accurate but has gained a reputation for genealogy and general historic research. Our programming will continue to inspire students and families.

The museum was created because of its many volunteers and staff members who over the last four decades have given their hearts and souls to making the Yellowstone Gateway Museum the success that it has become. It will only grow and continue to add to the quality of life of Park County.

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yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org

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Ellen Zazzarino
& Board members!



Dale Guidi (above, right) spearheaded the making of our new sign, posing with ex-board member Dick Dysart.



Washington residents, Cliff and Jille Rowe, volunteer each summer; this year they organized railroad records.



Gina Tecca editing a video that she and Mariah Henry (below) produced for the museum this summer. Henry also worked on our new chair exhibit.



Dale Guidi, Josh Merideth of Ken's Equipment Repair, Ed Dodge, Bruce Graham, Andy Olds, and Jem Blueher pose with the soda fountain that they moved from Sax & Fryer's sidewalk vault to the museum.

MUSEUM HOURS

SUMMER: (5/25 - 9/30) 10 AM - 5 PM, 7 days/week

WINTER: (10/1 - 5/25) 10 AM - 5 PM, Thurs. - Sat.

RESEARCH CENTER: 8 AM - 5 PM, Tues. - Fri.,

Please call for special groups or research appointments.

The Livingston Railroad Shops: The Rest of the Story

By Bruce Graham

This fifth and final installment of the Livingston Railroad Shop series is about the supporting areas that were separate from the shops—the depot, signal department, freight house, yard office, and the section department. The saga of railroad ownership is relayed in a sidebar.

Several offices were located in the Livingston depot, including an upstairs accounting office. Fifty-seven people worked here in 1953; the office and its employees were relocated in 1959 to St. Paul. The passenger service office, first operated by Northern Pacific Railway, and then by Amtrak, was also in the depot. (And of course, there was a waiting area for passengers.) Other offices included the trainmaster and telegraph offices, which operated 24/7, and the office of the signal department head.

Signal department employees worked out of a building on the south side of the tracks just east of the B Street underpass. The next building on the east was the Burlington Northern (BN) freight house and also the railroad agent office. The freight house was remodeled from a wood to a cement block building in about 1963. I started work for BN at midnight on October 16, 1972 in the freight house. This building is now the site of the Rib and Chop House restaurant and by chance my wife and I ate dinner there forty-three years later on October 16, 2015.

The US government established

the Railway Express Agency (REA) as a national monopoly in 1917 to ensure the rapid and safe movement of parcels, money, and goods during World War I. Similar to how United Parcel Services

(UPS) functions today using the road system, the REA used the extant railroad infrastructure. REA employees were railroad employees and members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks

Union. The REA office was in the baggage room located just west of the present depot. UPS began to outcompete REA in about 1969; REA ceased operations in 1975 when its business model ceased to be viable.

Across the tracks from the depot were the yard office and the section house where Livingston section employees worked from. The Carmen, two per shift, inspected all of

the arriving and departing trains for hot wheel bearings, flat wheels, and problems with loads that had shifted. The Carmen's office and work area were on the west end of the yard office building. There was a wooden walkway from the yard office to the depot; there was no fence along the depot side of the tracks, unlike today. On the west end of the yard office was the train crew locker room. The yard office building also housed the security force for the railroad consisting of three men who checked the trains for unwanted riders, made sure the buildings were locked at night, and watched for people trespassing on railroad property.

Three employees worked in the yard office: the Yard Master, who was in charge of the switching in the yard and making up the trains; the chief clerk; and the caller. Steve

(continued on page 5)



Northern Pacific Railway accounting office, 1940.



The author standing in front of the museum recently; note the Railway Express Agency sign in the background, part of the museum's railroad collection.



The Northern Pacific Railway Depot employees, 1940.

Changing Trains

The silver panic of 1893, which closed the silver mines at Castle, Montana, also caused the bankruptcy of the Northern Pacific Railroad. It was purchased by James J. Hill and J. P. Morgan, emerging as the Northern Pacific Railway (NPR). In 1901 the NPR and the Great Northern Railway (GN) bought control of the Burlington Northern Railroad (BN). E. H. Harriman of the Union Pacific Railroad failed to gain control of BN, and then attempted to buy up a majority of the stock that was outstanding in the NPR. These three major railroads shared the same major owners, Morgan, Hill, and Harriman, and interlocking directorships as far back as 1901 when they created a holding company known as the Northern Securities Holding Company. In 1904 the Supreme Court declared the holding company an illegal monopoly and ordered it disbanded but this had little effect on their operations, other than each company was issued their own stock. The rails' boards of directors continued working together.

Two local train men, Warren McGee and Webb Sullivan, spent a lot of time fighting the merger of the NPR, GN, Chicago Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q), and several smaller railroads into the BN. But the merger was anticipated for years. The museum has timetables that were published and assumed that the merger would be approved as early as five years before it actually took place. In the end, the passionate efforts by McGee and Sullivan only delayed the inevitable. The NPR, GN, and CB&Q merged on March 3, 1970, creating the new BN, which in turn merged with the Santa Fe Railroad on December 31, 1996. The company's name was changed to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe in 2005.

(continued from page 4)
 Jackson was the Yard Master when I started working for him as a caller in January 1973; Monty Mathis filled in for him on the weekends. Both men had worked previously as switch men. For each scheduled train I had to call five crew members, and if I couldn't reach

them on the phone I had to drive to their residences and leave a call slip. If I was still unable to locate a crew member then I had to go to the extra board and call the first person out. This all had to be done in an hour and fifteen minutes. Many times I had more than one train crew to call at a

time. The caller had two desks and three phones, so I learned how to let a phone ring if I was busy calling crews. Each person had a chip hanging on a board that I had to move to show that they were in or out of town, working or on vacation, or on the extra board. Outside the yard office on the track side was a scale for weighing carloads of material.

Livingston was the change point for train crews; one crew worked from Livingston west to Helena and another worked east to Laurel. Crews were also supplied to run the switch engines in the yard, the helper and local train crews to Wilsall and Gardiner, and west to Three Forks and Trident.

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 Earl Stermitz
 Rick VanAken

(Visit our web site for past articles)

What Does MAM Stand for?

By Roddy Stanton

In mid-March four of us from the museum drove in the "company car" up to Kalispell to attend the annual conference of the Museums Association of Montana (MAM). We did this not just because it is fun to meet up with other staff and volunteers from museums across the state, but to find new ways and ideas to make your own museum here in Livingston even better.

Staff member Karen Reinhart headed up our little group of volunteers, Norm Miller, B.J. Earle, and Roddy Stanton, for two days of talks, panels, and round-table discussions—a give-and-take, cross-pollination of museum practices. We traveled seven hours in sleet and snow to get to the conference but it was worth the drive!

Each year we attend a Thursday evening progressive reception. This year we visited the 1895 Conrad Mansion Museum; an impressive ninety percent of the furnishings are original to the house. We also enjoyed the Museum at Central School and the Hockaday Museum of Art. It's very helpful to see how other museums interpret history.

Thirteen different sessions were held throughout the day on Friday. We picked up some ideas in sessions about engaging millennials, identifying grant opportunities, and sharing collections online.

The Gift Shop Round-Table gave us several interesting suggestions on setting up a museum shop to

attract more visitors. Another helped us figure out how to work with teachers to get their students into the museum and make their field trips worthwhile. Others tackled the problems of bar-coding, museum security, and one entitled "Why Is It Always the Board's



Norm Miller in the Conrad Mansion Museum kitchen with one of their board members.

Fault? Understanding Board Rules and Responsibilities," gave insight into governance.

Karen and Norm presented a session titled "Creative and Compelling Exhibits: Strategies That Work!", drawing on our own experiences to demonstrate the possibilities to participants. They discussed the process of creating an exhibit from the first seed of an idea to the finished product,

using two- and three-dimensional sketches on paper, illustrations and interpretive panels. Norm and Karen showed photos of our Transportation, Fire, Military, and Communication exhibits.

At lunch Jeanette Rankin joined us for a delightful and informative talk on her first election to Congress and her votes against war. Rankin is one of several historical personalities impersonated by Mary Jane Bradbury, programs that are offered by Humanities Montana.

On Saturday morning we all attended a final session, "Dating Historic Photos from Costumes Pictured" which covered the Victorian period to the Great War. We received helpful hints for dating our many, sometimes mysterious, photo collections.

Having driven north along the west side of Flathead Lake, we decided to return down along the Swan River - Seeley Lake route which was a new part of the state for some of us. With dry roads and sunny skies, it took us only six hours to get home. What a beautiful trip!

Next year the conference will be held in Helena and we look forward to being inspired by new ideas in the museum world.

mark your calendars

WWI exhibit opening

Nov. 11, Saturday, 4-6pm

Honoring local veterans and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the USA entering the Great War. Museum's 1st-floor Pioneer Room.

Attend programs at your museum

CALENDAR

HUMP DAY HISTORY

Remembering Yellowstone: A Speaker Series*



Sept. 13, Wednesday, 7pm

*Reflections from Yellowstone and Beyond:
43 years as a Seasonal Ranger*

Author **Orville "Butch" Bach** shares colorful stories from his National Park Service career, which focused on Yellowstone's backcountry. Book signing follows the program.

Sept. 27, Wednesday, 7pm

Yellowstone National Park: Through the Lens of Time

Photo journalist **Bradly J. Boner** gives program about his new rephotography book that compares more than 100 historic photos by William Henry Jackson with the author's contemporary photos. Book signing follows the program.



Oct. 11, Wednesday, 7pm

Cowboy Tales on the Eaton Trail in Yellowstone

An Eaton cowboy himself, author **Don W. DeJarnett** takes readers on an imaginary journey through the park using stories gleaned along the trail. Howard Eaton established the first dude ranch in the country in the 1880s. Book signing follows the program.

Oct. 25, Wednesday, 7pm

Canyon Village in Yellowstone: The Model for Mission 66

Author **Lesley Gilmore**, Director of Historic Preservation Services for CTA Architects Engineers, gives program about the history of Mission 66, which enabled the National Park Service to improve neglected and over-used infrastructure in the parks by 1966. Book signing follows the program.



***Doors Open at 6pm. COME EARLY & VISIT THE MUSEUM BEFORE THE PROGRAM!**

All welcome. Free. Refreshments. Attendees must climb stairs to the museum's top floor—apologies!

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Michelle Feldstein ~ Pine Creek School model
BJ Earle ~ Women's history & Lakota Star books
Linda Kushman ~ Yellowstone postcards
Ellen Zazzarino ~ Wilcoxsons T-shirt & book
Mike Fleming ~ Sarah Blakeslee Cannon poem
Cherry Eustace ~ Monte Chadbourne leather jacket
Rick Van Aken ~ Railroad Seniority Time Books
Park Co. Chiropractic ~ Livingston postcard

Susan Sewell ~ WWI & WWII aircraft models
Char Edwards ~ Frank Fryer's suit of tails
Dean Gilbert ~ Framed photo of WWI Marines
Bev & Gary George ~ Reunion & event photos
Jean Winsor ~ 1940s American Indian doll
Cary Lund ~ Architectural Renderings, Water Works
Donald Doll ~ BN merger scrapbook, photos, books
Mini Camp ~ Photos
Sal & Carol G. Lalani ~ Photos
Gallatin History Museum ~ Calendar advertisement
Lindie Gibson ~ Photos
Jean Kraft & Lindsay Robb ~ Susan Kraft's research
Chris Hillegass ~ Sacajawea poster

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For Richard A. Gleason
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Jello and I Have History ~ Part I

by Merrilee Bryan

Cookbooks never seem to lose their popularity. Authors churn out seemingly thousands every year to answer the never-ending question of what to eat and how to put a new spin on the same old ingredients.

Recently, I cataloged a bin full of cooking related publications at the museum: dozens of advertising pamphlets ranging from 1900 to the 1980s, a few cookbooks, including those published by local churches and women's organizations, and a lot of loose recipes cut from newspapers. These were all items that local cooks kept and donated to the museum, revealing unusual recipes as well as what Americans (or advertisers) considered cuisine in the last century. My findings didn't disappoint!

Judging from these recipes, lima beans must have been inexpensive and readily available. Cooks were spurred to think outside the box and use fresh, canned, and dried lima beans. They could be puréed or chopped and mixed into a loaf with walnuts and served with an onion sauce. One cook created a lima bean cheese pie. Another recipe called for deviled lima beans, mixing canned beans with milk and cracker crumbs. A lima bean producer claimed lima beans contained a new vitamin, Vitamin G, important for beauty!

Other unusual recipes included battered tripe, a pizza pie made with a hamburger crust, tomato sauce, rice, and cheese sauce. Uneeda Biscuit Company featured cracker crumb and cheese stuffed turnips topped with a white sauce. Soybean sprouts could be stir-fried with pork, onions, and peppers, and served with a cornstarch-thickened bouillon sauce. A rather intriguing potato waffle batter was made with grated potatoes. Krebble sounded enticing as well; eggs, flour, baking soda and powder, sugar, nutmeg, and sour

cream or buttermilk were beaten into a batter which was boiled, and then cooled. The resulting dough was rolled out in strips and deep fried. There was also a sandwich spread made from chopped sweet pickles and

peppers combined with cream and two beaten eggs. Spam was featured in a casserole made with peppers, onions, chicken noodle soup, eggs, oatmeal, cheese, and a can of condensed milk. The lesson here is that you work with what you have.

Uneeda Biscuit Company offered Premium Snow to satisfy a sweet tooth. A pint of boiled milk was combined with Uneeda crushed crackers, sugar, orange zest, and vanilla, and then, whipped cream was folded in. There was a recipe for puffed rice brittle and one for salting sweet cherries. Pillsbury's fifth national grand champion baker was selected for her Watermelon Teatettes—a little delicacy that mixed sugar, water, spices, butter and flour with watermelon pickles. Avocado lime Jell-O pie sounded quite modern, since the recent elevation of the avocado into the realm of a superfood. This brings us to a discussion of Jell-O.

Jell-O pamphlets abounded in this collection, Jell-O appearing as aspics, salads, and desserts—often a genteel offering at church suppers and Ladies Aid meetings. Cooks experimented with ingredients, folding in everything from shredded meat, shredded or cottage cheese, and every fruit and vegetable known and grown.

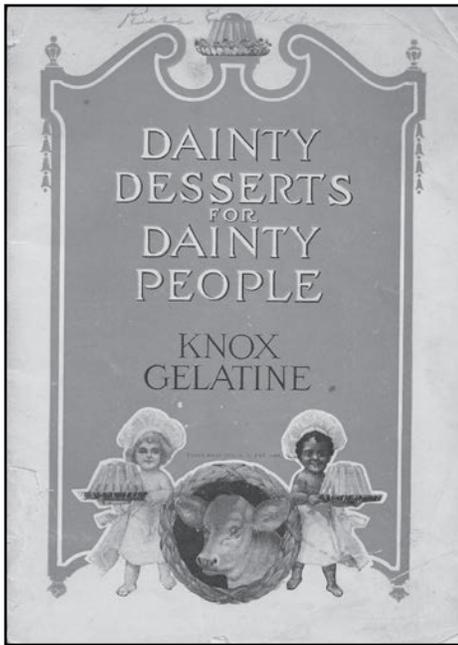
Before 1897, gelatin was made by boiling hooves, usually calves', and the results could be flavored and served as a delicacy. Often reserved for invalids or special occasions, it was an arduous dish to concoct.

But in 1897 Pearle Wait and his wife, May, trademarked



As a retired grade-school librarian, I love illustrations. Vintage brochures were handsomely illustrated, showcasing the fine family life to be enjoyed by using their products. Quite the loveliest was this pamphlet advertising Rumford Baking Powder.

(continued on page 11)

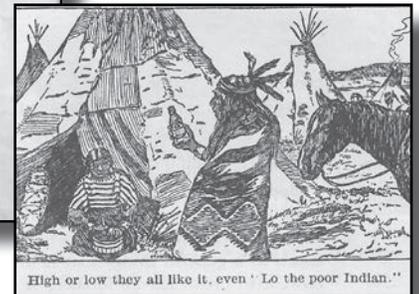


(continued from page 10)
 Jell-O, combining it with sugar and flavorings of orange, lemon, raspberry, and strawberry. I can see the appeal, especially if your first recipe started with killing a calf!
 Jell-O and I have history. As a young cook in the 1970s, I took

a laissez-faire attitude toward recipes, always altering, substituting, and omitting ingredients. I pushed the limits with Jell-O and became known in my family for my "Jell-O Mess Surprise," because I refused to follow recommended guidelines. Not surprisingly, Jell-O is no longer in my repertoire nor does it make as many appearances at family dinners and gatherings these days.
 Advertising was a rough and tumble, no-holds-barred competition in yesteryears. Calumet baking powder slammed the efficacy, and even safety, of using cream of tartar. They named their competitors and sternly advised against using their products. One 1940s brochure declared that Americans consume more sweets than any other nation. This was touted as a national tribute because we move faster and farther

than people of other countries and climes and, "sugar in every form is what feeds that dynamic energy"! They suggested we eat more. Today, we know better. Hoping to sell more stoves to the modern homemaker, Westinghouse designed a stove with a cigarette lighter installed on the top! This must have been before the Surgeon General warning appeared on cigarettes in 1970.

These vintage advertisements also carried their share of racism. We're familiar with Aunt Jemima and Uncle Ben products. A Durkee's salad dressing pamphlet from the early 1900s showed an American Indian man holding up a bottle of dressing in front of his and wife's tipi; the caption is "High or low they all like it, even 'Lo



the poor Indian"! In the same brochure Black people are shown using the dressing but conversing in a Southern dialect, unlike the well-spoken white folk in the same pamphlet.
 (To be continued in next newsletter)

Scenes from June Events at the Museum

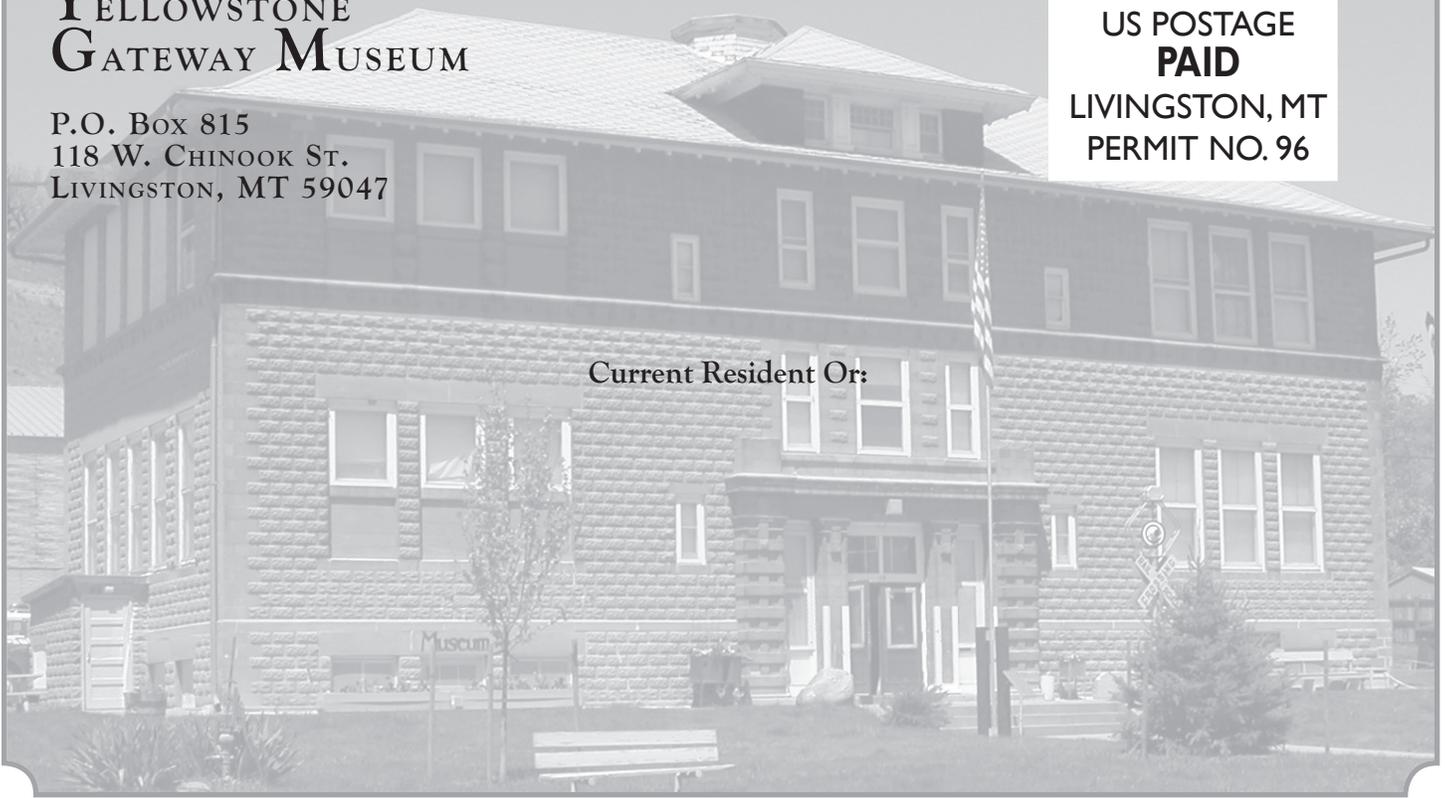


More photos from our 40th year in the next newsletter!

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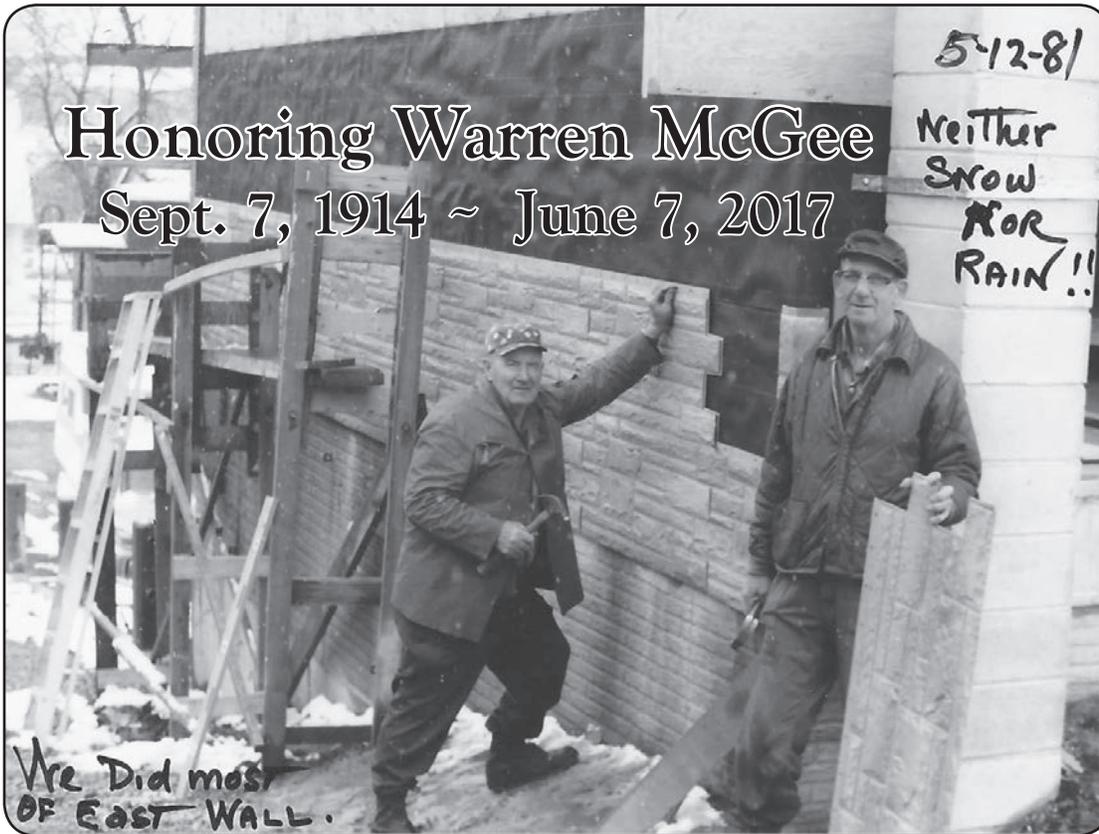
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Honoring Warren McGee
Sept. 7, 1914 ~ June 7, 2017



Warren McGee (left), a Livingston native, was a driving force at the museum for many years. Here, he's driving nails, attaching siding to the new garage and storage building with Vince VanAken. McGee also served the museum as historian and he donated railroad records, many photographs, including this one with notations, and many other artifacts.