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www.mvhm.us

MUSSELHELL VALLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

# SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



## Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Mission Statement

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum is a local, non-profit museum open to the public. It exists to preserve the history and heritage of Montana and the Musselshell Valley for present and future generations. The museum is a monument of our past and our heritage, and we are proud of it. Established in 1972, the museum is a living institution dedicated to preserving the story of our region.

The museum shall promote an understanding of appreciation of the history of Montana and the lower Musselshell Valley by collection, preserving, and providing a broad access to the historical resources maintained by the museum, library and archives. The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum's efforts in all areas are dedicated to high standards of scholarship and preservation.



## Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 10, 2024

The annual meeting of the museum board will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 2:00 PM in the basement of the museum. At this time election of officers and board members will be conducted. This meeting is open to the public as are all board meetings. The museum board meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM in the museum basement.

The museum is open each year from May through September from 1:00 to 5:00 PM each day.

Membership dues are due and payable on February 15 every year. The initial membership is \$20.00 and the annual renewal is \$10.00 per year. A personal lifetime membership may be purchased for \$150 and business lifetime memberships are \$200.

Mural on Main Street by Greg Wilhelmi



# SCHEDULED EVENTS 2024 SEASON

Opening Day                      Wednesday, May 1  
Pancake Breakfast                Sunday, May 5  
Yard Sale                         Saturdays, June 1 & 8  
Ice Cream Social                 Saturday, August 24  
Closing Day                        Monday, September 30  
Christmas Stroll                 Saturday, December 7



Tours are always available at the museum, and May 25 was busy with a variety of age groups eager to learn the history of our area. A bus of senior citizens were the first to arrive, followed by three classes of students from school. The students especially enjoyed the Blackfeet teepee, the old time saloon, and the diorama of Musselshell County.



## Christmas Stroll

The tradition continued, as the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum participated again in the annual Roundup Christmas Stroll. There were vendors in the basement, and cheese, crackers, and hot cider in the Buggy Room to welcome visitors. 147 visitors stopped by making this stroll a festive success.



## Musselshell Valley Historical Museum Annual Newsletter Spring 2024

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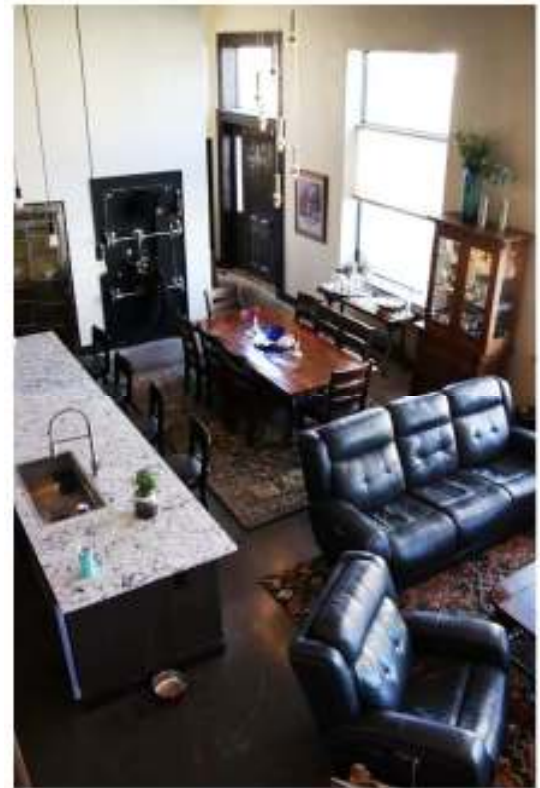
Find us on Facebook at:  
Musselshell Valley Historical Museum



The Citizens State Bank, a wood frame structure, was originally built in 1909 and was one of the first buildings on Roundup's Main Street. It was Roundup's second bank to receive a charter and was capitalized at \$20,000. C.F. Richards of Chaffee, ND was its first cashier. Some of its officers were J.W. Newton, president, J.C. Lohman, vice-president, and William Ogle, who also served on the Board of Directors. Following a fire, the building was reconstructed in 1913 as a two-story brick building. (As a note of interest, most of the first buildings were wood-frame. Many of them suffered the fate of Citizens State Bank and were destroyed by fire until the city father passed an ordinance prohibiting Main Street buildings from being built from wood.)

The bank was "temporarily" closed on February 8, 1923, for reorganization due to abnormal withdrawal of funds approaching proportions of a run on the bank. During the last week of October of 1923, following the failure of efforts to reopen, Roundup State Bank organized and opened its doors on November 2, 1923 in that same building stating that it was the policy of the new enterprise that depositors funds would be absolutely safe. Of course, the Depression rendered that policy void.

The building housed a number of different businesses following its life as a bank, and then sat vacant for a number of years with the only tenants being hordes of pigeons. In recent years, it was purchased by the Barth family and has been converted into a unique residence. Most of the exterior of the building remains untouched, and all three of the vaults original to the building are still contained there.



The Barth's beautiful living space. Notice the vault in the upper left.



Most of the exterior of the building remains untouched.





Dale Alger and Janet Hamill stand behind a bench donated by the RHS Class of 1969.



The first Slayton Mercantile Co., Lavina, MT 1908 (burned 1910)

# NEW!

During our off-season the museum updated the restrooms, making one ADA compliant. Materials and labor were provided from many volunteers, and professionals were hired for the upgrade. The theme for the restroom is vintage 1920s to match the construction of the building in 1922. Thank you to our local contractors for a job well done, Plumber Joe, Pronto Construction, and Eliasson Electrical

### Rudy's Hungry Five

- Noel Stalcup
- Rudy Strosky
- Joe Prindle
- Ralph Puckett
- Frank Koran
- (no date)



### The Palace Hotel, Roundup

Replaced by the bank building that now houses the Roundup Public Schools District Office  
(no date)



Before above and ... After below!



MVHM July RIDE float celebrating the museum's 50th birthday!

# GAP Update

In May 2023, the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum applied for a grant with the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC). The grant was to do a Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program. Through the grants we were allocated \$4,000 to hire a collections assessor and \$4,000 to hire a building assessor. The museum was responsible for paying other costs beyond the allocation, including travel expenses. We had to use the database of the FAIC to locate a collections assessor and a building assessor. The two assessors came to Roundup for a couple days in October to work together to assess our collection of artifacts and the buildings.

The CAP project was a comprehensive program that required online meetings. Our CAP committee had to fill out Site Questionnaires and other self assessments to give the assessors an idea of what to expect when they came to visit. Both assessors were very impressed with our museum and the work that had been done by an all-volunteer group of historians.

Our two assessors were Rachel Waters from Colorado to assess the collection and Kyle Normandin from New Jersey to assess the buildings. They used their expertise to share with us information about better ways to display our artifacts and issues that we can work on to make the buildings better and last longer. They have presented us with a 35-page final document that outlines items we can change and it also includes a page of resources to help us improve our museum.

The CAP program will help us improve the museum into the future.



Pictures top to bottom.

Assessors Rachel Waters and Kyle Normandin.

Board President Janel Hamill answering questions.

Assessors at work.

Kyle Normandin interviewing board Treasurer Shirley Parrott



Off To The Front, WWI Parade, Roundup 1917

# MEMBERSHIP LIST

\* Denotes Lifetime Members

## Business Names

1st Security Bank  
Allison Saddlery  
Busy Bee Café  
C Brewer  
Edwards Broadcasting 99.9FM  
Elite Towing  
Elite Tune and Lube  
Key Insurance  
Lee Farms LLC\*  
Lions Club  
McCleary Distributing  
Moody Enterprises  
MT Historical Society  
Musselshell Valley Equipment  
Picchioni's IGA  
Roundup Record-Tribune  
Signal Peak Coal  
VFW  
Women's Club

## Individual Names

Alger, Dale & Tomi  
Allen, Roberts\*  
Allison, Bill  
Anderson, Sharon  
Armstrong, Bradley  
Arthur, Anne\*  
Backstrom, Jeanette\*  
Barta, Dan\*  
Bartos, Jean\*  
Beadle, Mary Jane  
Bedford, Henry & Kay\*  
Bethke, William G.\*  
Betts, Elizabeth\*  
Beye, Wendy  
Bissonette, Adele L.\*  
Blum, Rose Emily\*  
Brown, Dennis\*  
Brown, Mickey & Phyllis\*  
Burch, Anita\*  
Casey, Susanne  
Casper, Bob  
Chandler, Sandra\*  
Christensen, Trish\*  
Clement, Michelle\*  
Combs, Bonnie\*  
Cooper, Madeline\*  
Corn, Marie\*



Cottrell, Serena\*  
Crawford, Kathy  
Crosby, John (Steve) & Barb  
Crouse, Erma & Mitch\*  
Dahl, Susan\*  
Degoes, Arlene E.  
Desjarlais, Gene & Delores  
Doumitt, Theresa  
Durgin, Richard & Andrea  
Edwards, Bill\*  
Egeler, Robert & Joyce\*  
Eickhoff, Rhea\*  
Eiselein, Beverly\*  
Eiselein, Greg  
Eliasson, Gary\*  
Eliasson, Jay\*  
Eppers, George & Darlene  
Erdie, Karen Jo\*  
Evelo, Jane  
Ewen, Jim\*  
Fletcher, James\*  
Fuller, Hank W.  
Gallentine, Merle\*  
Gebhardt, Kelly & Darlene\*  
Gerrard, Pat  
Gjerde, A. Russell\*  
Goffena, Mike\*  
Gouine, Diane  
Gray, (Masini), Ed & Kay  
Hebert, Leslie\*  
Hagstrom, Dave & Roberta\*  
Hamill, Janet\*  
Harper, Roger\*  
Hawkins, Susan\*  
Hebert, Leslie\*  
Hinman, Susan Wetzel\*  
Hochmuth Ranch Trust\*  
Hodges, Nancy\*  
Ihrig, David & Kimberly  
Jones, Anne Marie  
Jones, Dave\*  
Juhl, Will & Georgia\*  
Kenney, Patrick\*  
Kilby, Gordon\*  
Komar, Clara M.\*  
Kozelski, Albert & Jan\*  
Lang, Delinda\*  
Lekse, Larry\*  
Liggett, Pamela J.\*  
Lynt, Sharon\*  
Mackay, Bill  
Marmon, Donna\*  
Maxwell, Michael\*  
McCaffree, Dan\*



McCready, Louise\*  
Mihalovich, Michael\*  
Mihalovich, Richard\*  
Mihalovich, Robert U.\*  
Mihalovich, Wilma\*  
Miller, Dr. Bob & Jean\*  
Mitchell, William J.\*  
Moore, Linda\*  
Moses, Steve C.\*  
Munyon, Pamela J.  
Nelson, Mary  
Novotny, Mike & Michelle\*  
Parrott, Donald\*  
Parrott, Doug & Shirley\*  
Parrott, Jeffery\*  
Parrott, Joseph\*  
Peterson, Sharon Mercado\*  
Picchioni, Linda\*  
Purcell, Mary  
Reighard, Doug\*  
Reikofski, Mary\*  
Riojas, Jane\*  
Robertson, Jerry\*  
Ross, Bette\*  
Rutan, Dave\*  
Sackett, Gary\*  
Samuels, Marlene\*  
Samuelson, Jessica\*  
Schladweiler, Jim & Rita  
Seitz, Scott & Victoria\*  
Seitz, Diane  
Sloan, Edith  
Smith, Loris\*  
Smith, Thomas S.\*  
Snook, Dwayne & Wendy\*  
Spek, Beverly\*  
Spek, Darlene E\*.  
Stevens, Tim\*  
Teini, Dallas & Cecilia  
Thomas, Gary & Debra\*  
Toogood, Clarence\*  
Trent, Norma  
Unterscher, Peggy  
Vandeberg, Daniel J.\*  
Van Dyke, Randy\*  
Walker, Agnes  
Watkins, Rick & Jacqueline\*  
Webber, Jeri\*  
Whitmen, Kathleen\*  
Winkler, Kenny\*  
Witzel, Nancy\*  
Wood, Elizabeth\*  
Yount, Linda\*

# WE DIG DINOS!



## Memorials 2023

**For Ron & Geri Burnett**  
Doog & Shirley Parrott

**For Ed Gouine**  
Diane Gouine

**For Shirley Clark**  
Bob & Joyce Egeler  
Doog Reighard  
Janet Hamill  
Caryn Wanechek  
Shirley Clark Family  
Bonnie Combs  
Nancy Rademacher  
Ken & Rhea Eickhoff  
Rosemary Miller

**For Jane "Tootsie" Bartow**  
Joan "Ann" Mihalovich  
Ken & Rhea Eickhoff

**For Leonard Wall**  
Ken & Rhea Eickhoff

**For Wilbur Wood**  
Janet Hamill

**For Dick Palagyi**  
John Palagyi  
Doog & Shirley Parrott

**For Margaret Reighard**  
Joyce & Bob Egeler  
Ken & Rhea Eickhoff  
Rosemary Miller  
Doog & Shirley Parrott

**For John & Paulette Pratt**  
Karen, Larry, Bryan,  
& Jason Djemes



MVHM board members Eric Eliasson and Rob Mihalovich have been hard at work excavating fossils during the 2023 season. Eric has continued working on a Triceratops site in Rosebud County that was discovered in 2022. The juvenile Triceratops, "Aimee", named for the ranch owner's late dog, has been slowly emerging from the rocky hillside with the help of trowels, shovels, and an excavator. Currently about 8% of her skeleton has been excavated and cataloged. Among the exciting finds this season have been bones with signs of predation, (tooth indentations and scrapes), a 4" Tyrannosaurus tooth, and an Ankylosaurus vertebrae.

Rob Mihalovich continues his work on a Hadrosaurus bone bed in Musselshell County. The past season has found him plaster jacketing several large groupings of bones to be meticulously picked through and cleaned at home. Among his best finds this past season are an articulated series of tail vertebrae from a "duck billed dinosaur" or Hadrosaurus.

Eric and Rob have been hard at work cataloging and preparing the summer finds for new and improved museum exhibits in the "Dino Depot".



The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum would like to honor the memory of our dear friend, and fellow board member

*Shirley Clark*

Although our hearts are heavy with her loss, we are blessed to have known the dedication and grace of this great lady.



### Rothiemay Store Display

Left to right

Victoria Seitz

Anita Burch

Mary Keck

Seated—Jessica Rogerson

Photograph by

Snowy Mtn. Photo

## The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

is supported by donations. By becoming a member, you join a growing list of community spirited individuals and businesses ensuring the long-term success of this community historical treasure.

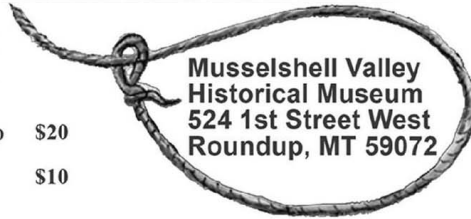
Simply clip this form with your scissors, fill out the requested information and mail it to the address below. You can select annual membership or life membership for an individual. Becoming a member helps us preserve the history of our region and brings you our annual newsletter of activities and interesting historical information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Life Membership      \$150
- Business Membership    \$200
- Individual Annual Membership    \$20
- Annual Renewal Membership    \$10



♥ Memorials are accepted year round and are a lovely way to remember and honor someone special.



**Log Depot**

Musselshell, MT

(no date)



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