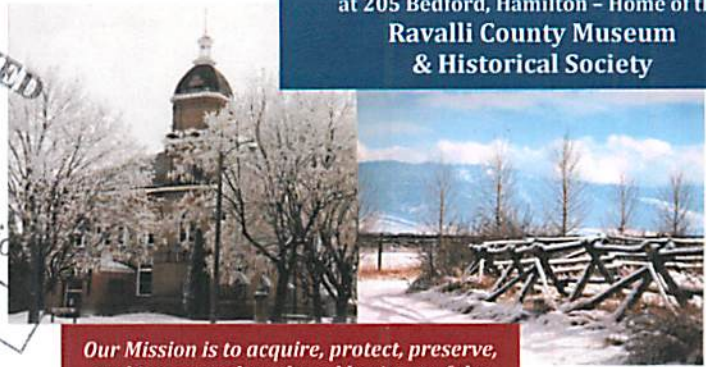


December 10, 2014

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840



A.J. Gibson Old Courthouse, built in 1900,
at 205 Bedford, Hamilton - Home of the
Ravalli County Museum
& Historical Society



*Our Mission is to acquire, protect, preserve,
and interpret the cultural heritage of the
Bitter Root Valley and its people.*

Greetings and thank you for your support and participation during the past year!

Many of you have attended events, visited the Museum, and enjoyed the presentations – you have invested time, money, and ideas to make a vibrant, “Local History, Art, and Natural History” Museum possible. The Museum receives no county funding. The “Old Courthouse” line on tax bills only maintains the building. ***The involvement of caring people throughout our area supports all of our programming.***

The Bitter Root Valley in December is a winter wonderland. We are all bundled up, staying indoors, working and playing, perhaps just wishing for spring... Imagine how life was for the early settlers arriving on foot or using horses and wagons for transportation or people driving our snowy roads in Model T’s – how different our lives are! One of the most important roles of a local museum is to document and explore our changing world.



With modern technology and communication at our fingertips, we can connect with family and friends or search the internet for any topic that might catch our interest. What does a local museum have to offer to compete with this?



At the Ravalli County Museum, you can see actual artifacts and objects of the past - “up close and personal.” As you wander through the exhibits or interact with fellow visitors, it is an opportunity to gain a fuller understanding of diverse



lifestyles and times. Perhaps you will hear a comment from a young child or senior citizen that sparks your interest in new areas or that gives you a chance to share *your* knowledge and experience.

Museums are the perfect places for curious minds...

Here at the Museum, you can see more than historic photos from our extensive archive collection, but also view objects that people actually used 100 or 200 years ago. You can gain a glimpse into the experiences and realities of the Bitter Root Valley that has, in part, shaped who we are today - an axe used to build a log cabin, clothing worn by the Salish, agricultural implements used by early settlers...

If you have ever wondered about things such as: How big is a wolf or a bald eagle, *really*? What does an old-fashioned telephone switchboard *look* like? Why *did* farmers plant apple orchards here? Who *are* my family members that lived and died here or were written about in newspapers dating back into the 1800s? The Museum is a fascinating repository of information, artifacts, and rotating exhibits. Enclosed is a booklet about the history of the **Apple Boom** of the early 1900s as a sampler of the many things that are preserved and interpreted for you to explore.



Museums provide places of relaxation and inspiration. And most importantly, they are a place of authenticity. We live in a world of reproductions - the objects in museums are real.
- Thomas P. Campbell, Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art



We invite you to visit and enjoy your local Museum!
Open Tues, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm, Free admission Thurs 10am-8pm & Sat 9am-1pm

In our small valley, the Museum provides activities, presentations, exhibits – **culturally relevant entertainment** - things to do and to learn about. The Bitter Root Valley has a unique legacy and is filled with “charming, historic towns.” But what make it a great place? People like you who support local endeavors and work to make the Bitter Root Valley a place to be proud of.



One of the values that we strive for, and find inspiration in, is **community involvement**. Whether it has been making pies for McIntosh Apple Day or preserving the Grantsdale School Bell Tower or attending events, the response from individuals and businesses has been rewarding.



We are excited to announce a new partnership with the University of Montana’s SpectrUM learning lab and the Jane S. Heman Foundation that will bring an eye-opening Nano Exhibition to the Museum. This exhibit opens May 7th and continues throughout the summer with educator-led activities and lectures on Thursdays and Saturdays. Also funded by the Heman Foundation is our two-year collection and artifact preservation initiative to strengthen our collection conservation and enhance its use in educational programs.

Support for these programs and all of our endeavors at the Museum are made possible by your involvement. Please consider us in your year-end giving or whenever you are able to make a contribution. There are many ways that you can make a difference!

Best Wishes for the New Year! from the Museum Staff, Board, and invaluable volunteers

Ways to Give

Donations -

Your gift of any size is greatly appreciated.

Monthly pledges -

Your gift multiplies:
 \$10 x 12 months = \$120
 \$25 x 12 = \$300 in a year
 \$100 x 12 = \$1,200 in a year

Membership -

Join us as a Member; benefits include newsletters, special prices for events & 15% off at the Gift Shop. The levels are shown below.

Sponsorships -

Support a program or event of your choice. Please call Tamar Stanley, Exec Director, for more information at (406) 363-3338.

Planned Estate Giving

Attending Events

Volunteering

Your support helps us provide programming that celebrates the unique cultural heritage of our Valley!

The Ravalli County Museum & Bitter Root Valley Historical Society is an IRS-qualified 501c3 charitable organization.



Please tear off and return

Ravalli County Council on Aging
 310 Old Corvallis Rd
 Hamilton, MT 59840

If you are not already a member, we invite you to join the Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society.

Your contributions make a difference!

- \$100
- \$ 75
- \$ 50
- \$ 25
- \$ _____ another amount
- \$ 500
- \$ 250
- \$ 200
- \$ 150

Membership Levels

- \$ 25 Individual Senior/Student
- \$ 40 Individual \$ 50 Family
- \$100 Bitterroot
- \$100 Business Member (includes listing on our website)
- \$250 Ponderosa
- \$500 Sapphire \$1000 Trapper Peak



I wish to pay by credit card: # _____ Exp Date _____ Sec Code _____
 (If you would rather provide credit card specifics by telephone, please call (406) 363-3338. All information is strictly confidential.)

Signature _____ Date _____ Phone or email _____

Thank You!

Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society
 205 Bedford, Hamilton, MT 59840
 (406) 363-3338

