

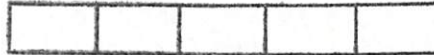
December 12, 2017

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DEC 19 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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



Greetings and Happy Holidays!

The new year is almost here, bringing new exhibits and activities to the Museum. We hope you will join us for the opening in March of "Illuminating Darkness: Montana Cave Exploration," that will take visitors through the geology, wildlife, and wonders that exist below the surface. Next in our series of free "S.T.E.A.M." Saturday Learning Adventures for children and families is "Winter Camp," featuring the creation of a community ecosystem mural. We invite you to visit the Museum, enjoy the displays, and use the many resources here.

Thank you, especially, for your support and participation throughout the year! You are the reason that we are able to offer a wide range of culturally relevant events and activities for community members, families, and visitors to enjoy throughout the year.

As 2017 comes to a close, we also know that it has been a year impacted by devastating natural disasters, violent acts, political turbulence, and other events that touch us even in our sheltered valley. You may wonder what *you* personally can do to make a difference in the world. In the words of Albert Einstein: "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."

By donating to the Museum, you have an opportunity to foster cultural understanding—

Your gifts create a place where visitors of all ages can learn about other lifestyles and gain a glimpse into the values and beliefs of people who have lived and worked here in the Bitter Root Valley and in the wider world.



During school tours of the Nez Perce Living Culture Exhibit, we saw new connections and understanding coming together in the young faces of the students. One second grade child, who listened ever so intently, entranced by the story of the Nimiiipuu Flight of 1877, confided with pride that Chief Joseph was *HIS* ancestor. The docent asked the child if he held in his heart the attributes of courage, compassion, and generosity that Joseph held in his. When the boy nodded "yes," she responded, "Then the world is a better place because you are in it."

Making ropes on a vintage rope winding machine at McIntosh Apple Day



Exploring exhibits and finding new things to learn about with your families



Making necklaces and learning about the use of trade beads during the 1800s

Honoring the Past and sharing it with people TODAY and into the Future

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2017

Kavali County Commissioners

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The Ravalli County Museum & Historical Society
 is a nonprofit organization ~ supported by your
 donations, membership, grants, and events.

Special Thanks to:

Jane S. Heman Foundation
 USDA Forest Service
 NPNHT CCS Program
 Dennis & Phyllis Washington
 Montana History Foundation
 Annie Maclay Leffingwell
 Foundation
 Hamilton Rotary Foundation
 Hamilton IOOF Lodge #48
 First Security Bank
 And our *Fabulous Volunteers!*



**Everything that is preserved, displayed, and
 accomplished here is because of the caring
 and generosity of people like you.**

This year your support helped create:

- ◆ Six New Exhibits
- ◆ Four Cultural Heritage Events
- ◆ Nez Perce Living Culture Celebration
- ◆ FARM Show & Knockerball Events
- ◆ Veteran's Day Celebration
- ◆ Cowboy Christmas & Gallery of Trees
- ◆ Weekly Free Saturday Family Activities
- ◆ History Faire and Science Fair
- ◆ And bake 700 McIntosh Apple Pies
- ◆ Construct Garment Bags to Protect our Military Uniform Collection
- ◆ Digitize Video, Photo & Newspaper Archives
- ◆ Add an AmeriCorps/VISTA Educator
- ◆ Install New Upstairs Gallery Lighting
- ◆ Staff and operate your local Museum open all year, and visited by over 9,000 people!

Yes, grants do often pay for many of our special projects and exhibits—but it is individuals and businesses, who donate throughout the year, sponsor events, attend functions, and join as members, that keep our doors open and make the Museum a vital cultural & educational resource.

Your Year End Gift Is Important!

It provides immediate resources to support the current operating needs at the Museum. We hope that you see the value the Museum brings to our communities and see the good that your gifts accomplish.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

- from the Museum Staff, Board of Directors, & Invaluable Volunteers

**EXCITING NEW
 ADDITIONS TO
 OUR COLLECTIONS**

Cron Tool Collection
 ~ Jane and Bob Cron



**Montana
 Café Sign**

~ The Hom Family



IOOF Collection

~ Hamilton IOOF Lodge #48

**and
 Historical Artifacts**
 ~ Local Families

We are saddened by the recent loss of Noellynn Pecos, co-worker and friend. Her dedication, vision and creativity brought our exhibits to life.

Please tear off and return

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

**My gift to help others explore and learn about the
 diverse cultures and people of our Valley!**

*If you are not already a member, we invite you to join the
 Ravalli County Museum / Bitter Root Valley Historical Society.*

My gift to support Museum programming:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a pledge commitment of: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 200 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 | \$ _____ for _____ months |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____
other amount | | Your contribution multiplies:
\$10 x 12 mo. = \$120 /year
\$25 x 12 mo. = \$300 /year
\$100 x 12 mo. = \$1,200 in a year |

Membership Levels:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 Individual Senior/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Ponderosa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Sapphire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Trapper Peak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Bitterroot | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 and up Business
(includes listing on our website) | |



*Finn Kemp
 Cowboy Christmas*

Signature _____ Date _____ Phone or email _____

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.)

Thank You!

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



WHO ARE WE?

Exploring our culture... through history



The Bitter Root Valley is the homeland of the Salish people, an indigenous tribe who lived here for centuries.

From the first prehistoric hunter-gatherers from ten thousand years ago, to who we are today, vast cultural changes have taken place. Values, beliefs and social norms are shaped by the past, altered by events in the present, and passed into the future through our children in a continual cycle. By preserving the stories of the past, we attempt to understand who we are and where we are going as human beings. This brief time-line serves as a small glimpse into the history that helped shape who we are today.

From 1700 to 1800, horses were introduced into the area and several tribes passed through the valley, trading and traveling along with the Salish Indians on seasonal buffalo hunts.

In 1805, Lewis and Clark visited the Bitter Root, and soon after, fur traders moved into the area. Jesuit priests brought the first domestic cattle and taught farming and Christianity to the Salish. By 1870, homesteaders began arriving in the valley.



During the 1880's the famous "Copper King", Marcus Daly, laid out Hamilton, which was soon a thriving city. The 1880's also brought a sudden influx of industry with the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The Nez Perce came through the valley in 1877, pursued by the US Army as they made their way from their homeland in Wallowa, Oregon, to the Bears Paw Battlefield. (The path they took is now known as the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.)



Treaties that stated the Salish could stay in the Bitter Root Valley were broken and they were forced to leave their homeland and move to the Flathead Reservation in 1891.

In 1910, Frank Lloyd Wright designed two major centers for eager apple farmers, who came in from as far out as Chicago



and New York, to buy parcels of land and grow crops of McIntosh apples. By 1924, many of those orchards had gone out of business due to hail damage, early frosts, and other issues that led to crop failures.

Charlie Russell came to the Bitter Root Valley around this same time to study the background material for his mural of Lewis and Clark Meeting the Salish in Ross's Hole. Rumor has it that the infamous Calamity Jane even ran a restaurant in downtown Hamilton.



Cattle and timber continued to be a major source of income for many in the Bitter Root, but tourism was also beginning to form as a lucrative opportunity.

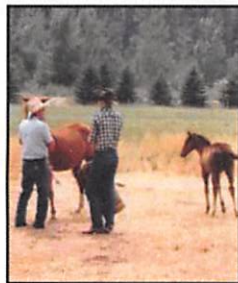
Major industries today are ranching, agriculture, scientific research, forestry, and tourism. "Bitter Rooters" from all walks of life now live here. Some have been here for several generations and some are new to the area.

Most, regardless of when and how they arrived, are nature lovers who appreciate the beauty of the vast wilderness areas that surround this valley.



The Salish people, now welcomed in the Bitter Root, come together with current residents in friendship. An annual festival, centered around the Montana state flower, provides a setting for those friendships to flourish.

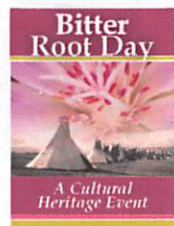
We are a people who work hard, play hard, love our families, our communities, and this valley. As we continue to evolve, grow, and shape our culture, Ravalli County Museum will collect, preserve, and share our stories so that future generations can benefit from a deeper understanding of the past.



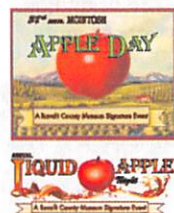
Our Museum's Culture...

*Statistical research shows us that historical events can have long-term impacts that continue to be felt today. Examining the past helps us define our culture by providing a sense of direction that honors those who came before us.

We are dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the valley, bridging cultural gaps, and providing educational and historical experiences for the diverse groups of people who call this place home, wherever they may hail from.



Beyond the incredible displays and exhibits featured throughout the year, Ravalli County Museum holds three major festivals. Bitter Root Day is a celebration of the Bitter Root Flower and our friendship with the Salish Tribal People. It is held on the 2nd Saturday every June.



McIntosh Apple Day is centered around the Apple Boom of the early 1900's. In the evening after Apple Day, is Liquid Apple Night, which features hard cider from cider makers all over the Rocky Mountain Northwest. These two popular festivals are held on the 1st Saturday of every October.

Additional events include the Ernst Peterson Photograph Montana Contest, A Musical Evening for the Museum, Ghost Tours: Paranormal Investigations, an Annual Veteran's Day Observance Ceremony and program, and A Cowboy Christmas event, paired with a spectacular Gallery of Trees display and silent auction.

Ravalli County Museum has a thriving education department which provides weekly hands-on educational activities for children and coordinates with local schools to enhance curriculum and provide educational assistance to teachers.

* https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/nunn/files/culture_and_historical_process.pdf

Other sources of information for this brochure are from *A Brief History of The Bitter Root Valley*, by William W. Whitfield, Historian for the Ravalli County Museum and from research in our extensive archives and photo collections.



**Ravalli County Museum
& Historical Society**

205 Bedford Hamilton, MT 59840
406.363.3338 • www.ravallimuseum.org

Open Hours:

Tues, Wed, Fri 10am - 4pm
Thurs 10am - 8pm (Free Admission)
Sat 9am - 1pm (Free Admission)

CULTURE
noun | cul-ture | \ 'kəl-čər \
of the Bitter Root Valley

RECORDING HISTORY

...the characteristic features of everyday existence (such as diversions or a way of life) shared by people in a place or time
- Merriam Webster Dictionary