

News Letter

Fall- Winter 2016

Members of the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation help support the Old Montana Prison Museum Complex in its position as a world-class tourist attraction. Your support has attracted nearly 2.5 million visitors over the past 35 years, each one enjoying the Montana hospitality that they encounter at the Museums, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, the Deer Lodge Historic District and the many other attractions that this area of Southwestern Montana has to offer.



and life of Deer Lodge, Powell County and the State of Montana, including but not exclusive to, historic buildings, photographic records, and/or artifacts for preservation, representing the past, present and future. To present and educate the members and the public to the significance of the items and artifacts in the repository of the Powell County Museum & Arts Foundation, and to advance this and other educational programs." It is with this in mind that we have created new and exciting ways of utilizing your membership dollars to "present and educate" our communities and people from far and wide.

The 2016 season has been

a very good season for visitors. The Museum has seen over 4,500 more visitors this year compared to 2015 visitation. We are already working on great new exhibits to bring in more visitors for the 2017 season.

This up coming year, we hope you and your families enjoy our new exhibits along with the old which is why we are here.

In closing, I would like to invite each and every one of you stop and visit "Your Museum". Your continued support of the endeavors that the staff of PCMAF have taken on and are continue to work on are greatly appreciated. We look forward to announcing many new changes and exhibits for the 2017 season.

Sandy Pettey, Director

The foundation is strongly committed to our mission statement: *"To preserve, protect and present elements of local and regional history and culture. To be a repository for the history*

Meet The Museum Curator

Melanie Sanchez, who is our Museum Curator, has been with us for two and half years. Melanie started as a volunteer and soon became our curator, making sure all of our precious items are catalogued and stored properly while putting together 7 new exhibits in 2 years. Melanie has also created the script and is the leader in our Ghost Tours for the weekend nights



and keeps the Ghost Tours up and running. Ghost Tours have turned into a fun and sometimes creepy sellout on the weekends. With all of her duties at the museum, Mel manages to care for two lively children and a husband that is often drafted to assist her with our projects at the museum. If you have not had the time to visit the new exhibits at the museum complex,

you are missing a real treat. We have a great WWII exhibit with some unusual items donated or loaned by local supporters in the area. Soon there will be a fabulous quilt and stitchery exhibit in the Pen art gallery that Mel is currently working on. We are fortunate to have her enthusiastic and driven work ethic to help put this museum back on track. Please take a minute to come by, meet us and see the new treasures we have to enjoy.

2016 Raffle Car



There's still time to enter our 16th Annual "Win a Classic" car raffle. Mail-in forms need to arrive before December 2nd, but we can still take telephone orders up until 4pm on the 2nd. You will also be able to buy tickets at our Christmas Festival at The Pen right up until the drawing at 9pm.

Tickets are \$5 each, \$20 for 5, \$50 for 15, \$100 for 40.

Call (406) 846-3111 to order TODAY.

Montana Auto Museum Featured Car

Believe it or not, but in 1914 you could buy and brand new Electric Car. The 1914 Detroit Electric car, priced at \$2,650, was advertised to make it 80 miles on just one charge. Top speed on this model was rated at just 20 mph.

The Anderson Carriage Company, established in Port Huron, Michigan in 1884 was moved to Detroit by its founder in 1885. The first Detroit Electric car was built in 1917. The electric car business prospered, and in 1911 the firm was renamed the Anderson Electric Car Company. However, the cars were still known as Detroit Electrics. The company was always careful to insist that its product was not a touring car even though it gave an excellent performance in endurance runs. It was as an urban vehicle, one for women drivers especially, that the Detroit enjoyed most of its commercial success. 80 miles between charges was the figure generally advertised for these cars, but in a company sponsored test, a Detroit Electric ran 211.3 miles on a single charge. In 1913, Detroit Electrics were built for a while under license in Scotland by Arrol-Johnson. In 1919, the company



1914 Detroit Electric Car

name was changed to Detroit Electric. Production of these cars continued until at least as late as 1938. Then, sometime before World War II, America's most famous and long-lived electric car quietly disappeared from the automotive scene. — 3rd edition, *Standard Catalog of American cars (1905-1942)*

This is only one of the many cars in our museum to see, this one is on loan from Sherm and Bonnie Anderson.

The idea of actually getting to see and read what our visitors think about our museums is really new and exciting. We see the museums everyday, so we love seeing and hearing other peoples thoughts and responses to what we have to offer. This is just one of the reviews that our museum received from the Trip Advisor website. Check us out online if you want to read more reactions.

“When you pay for your entrance fee to the prison you get to visit several other museums which includes the auto museum. They have cars from the early 1900's to the 1970's including some of the "muscle" cars. They have a "pop up tent camper" that was towed behind your car in the 1930's. There is more than one picture of car camping which seemed to be popular back then. I think the most interesting car is the 1914 Detroit electric car. The car was advertised to get 80 miles to a charge. Some electric cars today don't get that type of mileage on a charge. A company sponsored test recorded 211.3 miles on one charge!” — Trip Advisor visitor August 2016

“We had an extra day and were told to take the time to visit the town of Deer Lodge. What an incredible place. For the price of admission to the prison, which we spent 2 hours in, the ticket entitles you to the four other museums across the street. Those museums were also impressive. What we truly enjoyed with the visits to all the museums here was the true sense of civic pride the town possessed. While not a large town, it felt as though every citizen worked to maintain and man the facilities. We intended to spend a few hours here and ending up spending the entire day into the evening.”

— Trip Advisor visitor from August 2016

Hard to buy for friends and family?

They say they don't need anything....

**Give them a membership to the Powell County
Museum & Arts Foundation**

It's a gift they can enjoy all year long.



Gift Shop Updates



Our gift shop manager has revitalized the gift shop once again to provide the best selection of merchandise around.

If you are looking for unique and interesting pieces for that hard to buy for friend or relative, check out our gift shop for this holiday

season. We feature a beautiful array of art work from Made In Montana Vendors as well as some very unique items that are in production right here in Deer Lodge. The museum gift shop is also the only place you will find one of a



kind Montana license plate art, that is made at the Montana State Prison. From hand made or-

naments to clothing and household pottery, the Old Prison Museum gift shop is your one stop shop for everyone on your wish list this year.

**C o m e
check us
out, and
remember,
members
r e c e i v e
10% off all
gift shop
purchases.**



OVER THE WALL continued

Submitted by Bernard Barton, Former Powell County Deputy

We received many responses to the Over the Wall story in our last newsletter and wanted to give our readers an update. Bernard Barton who has contributed much of his time and wisdom to our museum WWII Exhibit gave us this story to expand on what we had on file. This is what he remembers.

On July 3rd, 1977 three inmates went over the North wall, north east corner of the Territorial Prison and would have dropped down across from the RB Drive In restaurant. Mike Gray was a deputy sheriff at that time, and was riding with me (Bernard Barton) in my patrol car (I was a Highway Patrolman at that time). We had just passed that location and had not gotten to the end of the Prison yard yet when the Sheriff's Office called and advised us that some high school kids had seen three inmates come over the wall and dropped down and headed west towards the river. We immediately turned around and spoke with the high school kids who had told us that two white men and one colored man had slid down this conduit and headed toward the river they were wearing dark overall type clothing. The dispatcher related that information to the prison and the prison stated that they were not missing any inmates and that all of the inmates were wearing kakis, that none of them had blue clothing.

There was quite a mix up as to what the kids were saying and what the prison was saying, however the kids were very adamant about what they were seeing. Mike and I continued on down towards the river and the first house by the river had an open basement which we checked out to see if there was any movement and there was none. The prison had finally admitted that they were missing 3 inmates, and about that time several prison guards came to that same location. We told them that the basement was clear, however they continued on into the basement to check it out. Mike and I

continued to search the area. Mike and I headed east, however at this time there were so many correctional officers and pick-ups with correctional officers running around that it made for a very dangerous situation. Mike and I were over on the east side of town by the underpass on Milwaukee when we heard a pick up start up and it took off, we were trying to figure out where the pickup was coming from but lost it due to a the noise in that area. Found out later that two of the inmates had stolen Laurie Duncan's pick up and headed south, however they ran out of gas and did not know how to switch tanks so took off on foot until they got to Racetrack where they got a hold of Gustafson and pulled a knife on him, stole his vehicle and headed off towards Bozeman.

The Bozeman sheriff office spotted them and proceeded to chase them. From what I understood they ended up in a fenced in school yard where the Bozeman Sheriff Officers apprehended them but when it was all said and done both vehicles were in pretty bad shape. The other inmates had split off from the other two and I do not know when he was captured. It was kind of funny at the time because if Mike and I had arrived at the prison about five minutes sooner, these inmates would have almost dropped down right in our laps. At the time of this escape, as I mentioned before, there were a lot of armed correctional officers running around which made for a very dangerous situation. The next day the warden of the prison, the county attorney and the Sheriff had a meeting to discuss how to handle an escape from that time forward. It is now up to the Sheriff's Department and the Highway Patrol to search of escapees, not correctional officers. This is the end of this story. Story two involves the same actors only a couple years later. It involves razor wire which is advertised that not only will it cut but also cause infection, and when this episode was over it sure showed to be true. Stay tuned. To Be Continued next time.



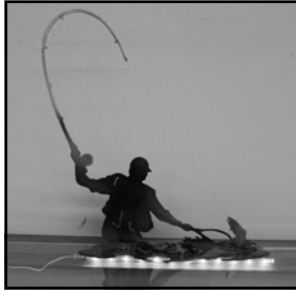
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS



Looking for a special gift for family and friends this Christmas?



Visit the Museum Gift Shop at 1106 Main Street (the Old Montana Prison Museums Visitor Center). We have lots of great items, and as a member you receive 10% off all purchases. Books, souvenirs, Metal Art, Beautiful Montana Huckleberry Pottery, Montana Silver, clothing, dolls, toys, Huckleberry jams and jellies, as well as candies, plus a selection of horse hair items that are always a popular gift. Did you know that the Powell County Museum Complex is the only place in town that sells custom art work from the Montana State Prison? Custom license plate art, you can check out what's happening at the MSP throughout our gift shop. Our line of Huckleberry Pottery is a great addition to anyone's kitchen.



CURRENT RESIDENT

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