

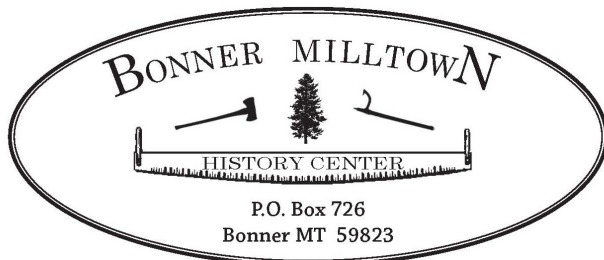
## History of the BMHC

The Bonner Milltown History Center was established in Fall, 2009, and opened in January, 2010. It is located in the historic Bonner Post Office building, constructed in 1942 on the original streetcar roundhouse site.

The BMHC is a volunteer organization inspired by the Bonner Area History Roundtable. Volunteers have enabled the Center to be open to the public several hours each week.

Collections include, but are not limited to, the Bonner millsite, work in the forest industry, history of the Milltown Dam (cooperatively with the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group), local railroad history, stories of the ethnic settlers of the area and related commercial and social institutions.

The Bonner Milltown History Center has received invaluable encouragement and support from individuals and organizations including the Bonner Area History Roundtable, the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, the University of Montana Archives, the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group, Scott Cooney, Friends of 2 Rivers and from Mike Boehme and Steve Nelson, Bonner Property Development, LLC, who provide the home for the Center.



## *Season's Greetings*

*from your*

## *Bonner Milltown History Center*

Keeping our local area and timber heritage alive for the education and enjoyment of the public.

December, 2012



*Had a flat tire lately? Chances are it's been awhile since you had this experience and a quick fix was only a phone call away. The Bonner Hooligan recalls a time when flat tires were a serious matter requiring ingenious repairs.*

### **The Red Rubber Tire**

The Christmas season was upon us and my young family eagerly looked forward to spending the holiday with family and friends. We had just purchased our first new car, a 1969 Mustang, and it was packed to overflowing with brightly wrapped presents. Christmas carols filled our minds as our exciting adventure began.

One stop included a visit at the home of an old friend who lived through the ordeals of the Great Depression and came through with a smile on his face and incredible stories about how he survived. A treasured piece of advice he gave me was: "You will never be a failure - unless you give up trying."

As was the custom, the womenfolk gathered to themselves in conversation and my three kids played outside and visited their favorite haunts while the menfolk walked around the farm and caught up on the yearly activities. It was on this walk that I saw an old wooden spoked wheel from a Model T Ford truck. Mounted on this wheel was a red rubber Armstrong tire. Having never seen a tire made of red rubber, I asked about its origin. It was salvaged from the wrecked remains of a 1 ton Model T Ford truck during the late 1930's and used as a part of a trailer axle to haul fire wood, similar to today's logging trucks.

This homemade trailer worked flawlessly until one day when the inner tube inside this red rubber tire simply blew out. Closer inspection showed that the inner tube was beyond repair and during the Depression the money needed to purchase a new inner tube was nowhere to be found.

The old red rubber tire was, however, re-inflated using a most unimaginable process. The old tire was filled as full as possible with wheat and water and then remounted on the wooden spoked wheel. The wheel and tire were then lifted onto the roof of the wood shed to bake in the hot summer sun. When the fall colors began to appear, signalling the start of the firewood season, the wheel with the rock hard tire was retrieved from the wood shed roof and remounted onto the trailer. This repair job lasted for several firewood seasons until the old wooden spokes started to shrink and loosen.

Here was living proof of one of the best pieces of advice I ever had: "You will never be a failure - unless you give up trying."

*Forty three years have passed since my family and I celebrated this joyous holiday and incredible story. Our original 1969 Mustang is no longer with us, but today my wife Sharon and I have restored another 1969 Mustang that helps keep this and many other great stories alive.*

Glenn Max Smith  
akaThe Bonner Hooligan

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Donna Madsen Anderson, Dick Anthony, John Barnhart, John Barnett, Willie Bateman, Julie Beckel, Russell & Roberta Bemis, Frank and Donna Barta Betts, Bike Walk Bus Week, Len Boe, Mike Boehme (Bonner Property Development, LLC), Bonner Area History Roundtable, Bonner School, Cal & Maybelle Bonnet, Kim Briggeman, Fay Gonsior Bunes, Leroy Christopherson, Milton Clark, Clark Fork Coalition, Bob & Shirley Clubb, Scott Cooney, Jack Demmons, Catlin DeSilvey, Ralph Dufresne, Chuck Erickson, Tom Flemming, Henrietta Flores, Friends of 2 Rivers, Kirt George, Dan Gillen, Karen Gonzales, Fred Guenzler, Jim Habeck, Rich Hama, Warren Hampton, Ilona Ruana Hargas, Diana Karkanen Hendrix, Bill Hillard, Jard Hirsch, Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Clifford Iverson, Norman & Maurine Jacobson, Anthony & Joan Jasumback, Betty Jo Flemming Johnson, Lois Fuller Johnson, K Ross Toole Archives, Laurie Kallis, Dale & Dorothy Karkanen, Norma, Knutson, Laura Koury, Erin Kunzelman, Mike Kustudia, Ellen Leahy, Libby Langston, Keith Large (Montana DEQ), Paul Layton, Lee Legried, Glenn Lentzner, Lola Mae LeProwse, Keith Lerback, Charles & Sheila Long, Gary & Judy Matson, MCAT, Pat & Judy McDonald, Richard & Patricia McEwen, Alan McQuillan, Rudi & Judy Miller, Ray Montelius, Peter Neilsen, Mike Nelson, Steve Nelson (Bonner Property Development, LLC), NorthWestern Energy, Ed Olean, Roger & Shirley Olean Olson, Wally Otterson, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Cheryl & Mike Palmer, Vennam Phimk, Lefty Pleasant, Scott Peryam (ProBuild), Dwight Rittenhouse, Roy Robinson, Dennis & Anna Sain, St. Ann Catholic Church, Steve Schombel, Mike Schrekengust, Otis Seal, Nina Petroff Seaman, Brent Shaffer, Jen Slayden, Glenn & Sharon Smith, Minie Smith, Bert & Gladys Sommers, C. G. Squires, Jeremiah Stahlberg, Tom Stockstill, Rick & Pat Swanson, Joi Sweten, Chuck Teague, Jack Thibodeau, Shorty Thompson, Don & Germaine Trenary, Two Rivers Bank, Jim Ulrich, George Votruba, Bill Wilborn, Sandy Wilborn, Jim Willis. *Not listed? Please let us know!!*

## Tuesday Morning Coffee at the History Center

Coffee is served every Tuesday morning 9:30 - 11:30 starting Tuesday, January 8. Host Jim Willis invites folks will stop by the History Center for treats and reminiscing. Be sure to take advantage of this chance for socializing and enjoying Jim's delicious cookies!

## Honoring Veterans at January History Roundtable

History Roundtables resume on January 27 with the program "A Salute to Our Veterans" at 2 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner. February's meeting will feature local railroads. A topic for March is pending.

## Center Awarded Montana History Foundation Grant

The Bonner Milltown History Center (BMHC) received a \$5000 grant for website enhancement. The website, TwoRiversHistory.net, was established by the Milltown Redevelopment Working Group and administration of the site was offered to the BMHC last year. The site features history of the local area and the remediation, restoration and redevelopment of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers.

New features on the website include an interactive timeline map of the history of the area and several audio and video selections from oral history interviews done with local residents by History Center volunteers. The updated website will be online in January.

### Contact Us

**Drop in:** Bonner Post Office Building

**Hours:** Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:30 AM;

Wednesday, Thursday, 2 - 4:30 PM

**Mail:** PO Box 726, Bonner MT 59823

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**Website:** www.tworivershistory.net

**Look for Bonner Milltown History Center on Facebook**

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