



MNHG Newsletter

Fall 2018

Board of Directors

Janet Enloe
Director/Secretary

Hugh Enloe
Director/Treasurer

Bob Majerus
Director/Vice
Treasurer

Our Mission: *The Monarch Neihart Historical Group was established to promote and preserve the rich history of the settlers, miners, loggers, ranchers, and the railroad industry that served them well.*

Below is an update on the continued restoration of the Monarch 1902 Great Northern Railway Depot.

- Work on the Depot bottom exterior trim siding was completed by **Dick Olson Constructors**. The Great Northern Privy was raised out of the dirt, leveled, and the privacy panel reconstructed in the front and shingled to match the Depot. The 1916 plans for the privacy panel reconstruction were provided by the **Great Northern Railway Historical Society** based in St. Paul, MN. The combined cost: \$4,100.

- Both the Depot and Privy were painted the original Great Northern mineral red. **Sherman Williams** provided the paint at the discounted price of \$835.38.
- **Klinefelter Insulation** blew insulation in the attic and exterior walls of the waiting room, ticket office, and station master's living quarters with a discounted price of \$1150. The freight room walls had been insulated in 2017.
- **Dick Olson Constructors** donated materials and labor to construct the ticket window in the Depot office.
- MNHG is restoring the Depot as much as possible to the original. To achieve this, the Board of Directors wanted to replace the weathered exterior crown molding that had been placed between the roof sheathing and the fascia although it is no longer a stock molding. The original 1899 construction drawings of the Depot showed the design number of the crown molding. Hugh and Janet took that design number to **All Wood Designs** in Helena who was able to mill the crown molding with a price of \$646.20.
- The interior walls of the waiting room, ticket office, and station master's quarters have vertical bead board as wainscoting and horizontal bead board above the wainscoting. The wainscoting was capped with a molding which had been removed during the Montana Department of Transportation ownership. The original Depot 1899 construction plan showed a wainscoting cap with the design number and again it was no longer available as a stock molding. **All Wood Designs** was able to replicate the wainscoting cap with a discounted price of \$631.

Neihart Fire Alarm Bell Tower. Architectural drawings of the tower have been completed for MNHG's second project, the Neihart Fire Alarm Bell Tower. Engineer calculations of the plan are being verified before reconstruction will start in 2019. The 450 pound bell was purchased by the Town of Neihart in 1894 at a cost of \$150 and has been in storage since 1945. Fund raising continues on this \$20,000 project with 28% of the cost raised. Donations for this project can be made to MNHG, P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463. Please make a notation on your check for the 'bell tower'.

Wanted! Anyone having **old pictures** of Neihart, Hughesville, Barker, Carpenter Creek, or Monarch and are willing to share, MNHG is requesting scans of the photos. Photos can be of people, buildings, scenery, wildlife, or whatever. If you are unable to do the scans yourself, MNHG will do the scanning. **Family histories** are also welcome.

New additions to the artifact collection. A family has donated an oak library table with carved lion heads in the four corners above the legs. It will fit nicely and look great in the freight area of the Monarch Great Northern Railway Depot where MNHG can place a collection of old photos and family histories of the Monarch/Neihart areas that is in the development stage. These will be kept in binders and placed on the table where people can sit and browse through the information. A second donation received was an oak roll top desk with an oak office chair. These will be placed in the ticket office of the Monarch GN Depot. They will fit in nicely with the oak crank telephone recently received.

From the Neihart Herald, 1893. T. C. Simpson, Wm Harrison, G. T. Curtis, G. W. Brown, Dr. Pelzer, E. K. Abbott, of Neihart, Chas. Lochray of Sand Coulee, and Jo. Lessard of Kibbey shared the vicissitudes of fortune and misfortune in transit from Great Falls to Neihart Sunday. There were a half dozen other passengers, besides the train crew, all of whom occupied a caboose whose dimensions are exactly 7x13 feet and whose designer evidently intended it to serve on some street corner as a peanut emporium. But mounted upon a single truck it has served a different purpose in the economy of its present owner. The train made excellent time and the suffering was not prolonged, but why the company, generally enterprising enough, could not have appended a coach for this refined but meek and uncomplaining company is a question which neither Bradstreet nor Dun even offers to explain. The people of Neihart wait patiently for a more frequent passenger service. *The Neihart Herald.* (Neihart, Mont.), 25 Nov. 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress.

Monarch Rocks! Festival. The sixth annual Monarch Rocks! Festival will take place **August 10th, 2019, in Monarch.** Mark your calendar and hope to see you here to enjoy a day of fun in the mountains.

Testimonial:

MNHG has done a great job raising additional funds, working with historic preservation experts to determine what and how work needs to be done, and bringing their community together to accomplish the restoration work.

Montana History Foundation, 2016.

Award: *2014 Historic Preservation Award for Preservation of the Area’s History & Cultural Resources.*
Great Falls–Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission.

Please visit our updated website for photos of all MNHG projects. www.mnhg.org

This newsletter costs \$.28 per copy for paper, printing, and postage, written by volunteers.

Please join us for our meetings. Email MNHG to find meeting locations and time. Email address: mnhg@3rivers.net.

MNHG has vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you like history and want some fun, you can apply to the MNHG Board of Directors by contacting mnhg@3rivers.net.

The Monarch Neihart Historical Group is a positive and practical organization working to ensure that the history of our area is preserved to share and educate.

Restoration of the Depot and the reconstruction of the Neihart Fire Bell Tower are funded by grants and your donations. Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated and your dollars are well managed. Please feel free to use the form below for your donation. Tax ID 46-1853767. THANK YOU! Please make a notation on your check for the ‘bell tower’.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Email _____ Donation Amount: _____

Mail to MNHG, P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463.

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