



MNHG Newsletter

Fall 2019
Member GNRWHS Since 2014

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.*

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It was a busy summer for MNHG, the Monarch Great Northern Depot, and the Neihart Fire Alarm Bell Tower project. The weather could have cooperated a little better this fall but we take what we get.

Historic Preservation Award. The Monarch Neihart Historical Group was awarded the 2019 Historic Preservation Award by the Cascade County/Great Falls Historic Preservation Advisory Commission for Outstanding Restoration of the Great Northern Railway Monarch Depot. The award was presented after snacks and beverages at the Russell Museum in May. Others receiving awards were the C. M. Russell Home and the Collins Mansion.

Historic Great Northern Depot Restoration. Ticket office and waiting room walls once covered with bead board that had been damaged from the leaking roof or removed has been restored with bead board milled in Helena from vertical grain fir. A sample from the Depot was provided to **All Wood Designs** by MNHG for authentic restoration. Restored walls and doors will isolate the freight room from the waiting room and office which can be heated. The freight doors leak a great deal of air so that area will not be heated. Cost: \$8958.

Neihart Fire Alarm Bell Tower. Fund raising continues to erect a tower for Neihart's 450 pound fire alarm bell. Purchased in 1894 to replace an inadequate bell in use, the original 30 feet wood tower stood until 1945. To date, 48% of the cost has been raised. The bell was taken out of storage this summer and towed around Neihart and Monarch for fund raising. Each donor was allowed to ring the bell. 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'.

Neihart Sign Project. MNHG learned from the mayor of Neihart signs were needed at the Neihart gazebo kiosk to identify it as a Montana Department of Transportation historic point. The sign was made to resemble the highway marker and mounted on the gazebo. MNHG also welded a plaque to a post and buried the post in concrete in front of the 1920s Neihart jail. The sign identifies the family who donated the jail to the town of Neihart in memory of their son. Check out the signs at mnhg.org.

UPDATE: National Register of Historic Places Listing. The City/County Historic Preservation Officer is working with the Montana State Preservation Office on the Monarch Great Northern Depot application for the National Register. A draft of the application was sent to the State Preservation Office late summer and returned for editing. Editing has been completed and returned to Helena. Photographs will be taken soon to submit with the application.

Wanted! Anyone having **old pictures** of Monarch, Hughesville, Barker, Carpenter Creek, or Neihart and are willing to share, MNHG is requesting scans of the photos. Photos can be of people, buildings, scenery, wildlife, or whatever. MNHG will scan the photos.

New to the Depot Collection. Pictures of the Logging Creek Great Northern train stop have been scanned and added to the collection. Thanks to donors, we now have the Albright Collection, Monarch Collection, Logging Creek Collection, and the Hughesville Collection. These collections are available for viewing at the History Table during the Monarch Rocks Festival, August 8, 2020. Also available for reading is the book *Monarch at the Turn of the Century* by Maude Simonton whose father was Depot agent in Monarch in the late 1890s.

Spring snow storms. Montana can have some wet heavy spring snow storms so imagine traveling in 1894 after a spring storm. At the time of the following news article, Monarch and Neihart were located in Meagher County.

From the *Neihart Herald*: April 7, 1894. "A. D. Edwards had a grand old time passing the range between here and the county seat with the stage last Monday. He started from the Springs (White Sulphur Springs, ed.) at 5 a.m. and did not reach Neihart till 4 p.m. Tuesday, a distance of forty-two miles. He was alone with a two-horse team, and twenty pounds of mail, the only additional encumbrance being a No. 2 shovel of which the husky driver made vigorous use. Many times his whole outfit was upset, and once he unhitched the horses letting them slide into the creek before he could get them on their feet. It is a desperate road under present conditions."

The Neihart herald. [volume] (Neihart, Mont.), 07 April 1894. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85053323/1894-04-07/ed-1/seq-3/>>

Monarch Rocks! Festival. For the past six years, the Monarch Rocks! Festival has been a time to celebrate the restoration of the historic Great Northern Depot. This past summer's event went very well. The weather cooperated although it was on the chilly side early in the day. The Forest Service celebrated Smokey Bear's 70th birthday by giving away Smokey scarves and drink cozies. All proceeds from the Festival fund MNHG projects. Plan to attend the 2020 Festival on August 8th. The Monarch Rocks! Market with vendors selling a variety homemade items will be setup and the Branding Iron Cafe from White Sulphur Springs will again provide lunch and snacks. Wander through the Depot and the Drover Car Caboose.

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

Please visit our website for photos of all MNHG projects. Also on our web page is a link to a Great Northern train making the trip from Great Falls to Neihart. ALL ABOARD!

<http://www.mnhg.org/monarch-history.html>

MNHG projects are funded by grants and donations. Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated and your dollars are well managed. Please use the form below for your donation. Tax ID 46-1853767. All donations are used for the restoration of the Monarch GN Depot unless otherwise noted for the Neihart Bell Tower. **THANK YOU!** Mail to MNHG, P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State Zip _____

Email _____ Donation Amount: _____

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