



MNHG Newsletter

Fall 2017

Board of Directors

Janet Enloe
Director/Secretary

Hugh Enloe
Director/Treasurer

Bob Majerus
Director/Vice
Treasurer

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

- **Boarding Platform.** The boarding platform was constructed on three sides of the Depot. The contractor, **Dick Olson Constructors**, built the foundation of the platform while two board members, Bob & Hugh, secured the deck boards to save on the cost. A total of 120 feet of platform was rebuilt matching the 1899 original plan.
- **Construction of the second freight door.** One of the two freight doors was constructed in July of 2016. The location of these doors became apparent

when the corrugated metal siding was removed in 2016. The west freight door was convenient for travelers and small shipments of freight. A second east freight door where the 'home track' was laid allowed boxcars to park for off-loading into the depot or directly onto wagons, most likely used for large shipments of mining or agriculture supplies. This door was constructed with Allith•Prouty barn door trollies which were the original trollies in the 1905 Carter Great Northern depot. The east trollies were donated by an Armington family who lives in the Armington Great Northern Depot and others were purchased from Ebay and donated for the west freight door. A donation of the old Armington freight doors was also received. Cost of boarding platform and freight door construction: \$20,000.

- **The framing the ticket office walls.** The Montana Department of Transportation removed the wall that separated the ticket office from the freight area when the Depot was used as a highway maintenance site. **Overfelt Construction** volunteered to frame the wall with materials MNHG purchased at discounted price from **Johnson Madison Lumber**. Cost of materials: \$179.06.
- **Electrical work.** The electrical service was removed from the Depot roughly thirty-six years ago. After requesting bids from various electrical contractors, Liberty Electric was selected. Motion lights have been placed on the east exterior corners for security purposes in this isolated location. Ceiling fixtures and track lighting have been mounted inside to direct light to exhibits. Two original light fixtures were rewired and mounted in the ticket office. Another original electrical fixture was mounted in the station master's living quarters. An electrical circuit has been run to the Drover Car caboose and to the railway crossing signal that was a recent gift from a Monarch/Neihart resident. The signal has flashing red lights in four directions which operated during the Monarch Rocks! Festival in August. Cost of electrical work: \$6,700.
- The second **MONARCH** sign for the south exterior Depot wall based on the original sign plans from the Great Northern Railway Historical Society has been made and donated by the contractor, **Dick Olson Constructors**, and sign company, **Kelly's Sign**.
- **Shiplap.** Bob and Hugh are currently insulating the walls and covering them with shiplap which MNHG believes to be the original wall covering. The old shiplap was removed where necessary for the framing repairs in 2015 and more removed in 2017 for the electrical work. The shiplap came from a mill near Seely Lake which **Johnson Madison Lumber** ordered. A generous donor offered to split the cost of new shiplap with MNHG. Cost to MNHG: \$1,831.84.

Who was Harold Dibb? Last spring when Bob and Hugh were scraping several layers of paint from the exterior siding, Bob uncovered a name, Harold Dibb (or Dill) carved into the wood with the date July 1908. It was difficult to determine if the surname was 'Dill' or 'Dibb'. After research, Janet and Hugh discovered no one living in Great Falls with the surname 'Dill' however, a young man named Harold Dibb was employed by the *Tribune* and lived with his parents. Young Harold enlisted in the Marines in February 1918 serving with the 6th USMC Regiment. He was wounded-in-action July 18, 1918, and discharged. He returned in Great Falls to marry his sweetheart, Mary Thomson, in 1919. Harold died in 1963 and is buried in the Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery in Lewis County, Washington. Harold's carved name will be preserved with a biography nearby.

Monarch Rocks! Festival. The fifth annual Monarch Rocks! Festival will take place **August 11th, 2018, in Monarch.**

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.

Restoration of the Depot is 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. All donations are used for the restoration of the Monarch GN Depot.

Name: _____

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

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