



# MNHG Newsletter

*Spring 2016*

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Already, the Board of Directors of the Monarch Neihart Historical Group are gearing up for the summer.

### **Great Northern Railway Depot Restoration.**

Phase III of the Foundation/Stabilization Project for the restoration of the Monarch 1902 Great Northern Railway Depot will start in May with volunteers placing fill into the building to prepare for a 4" concrete slab floor. The contractor, **Dick Olson Construction**, will begin work in June. Along with the floor, two overhead doors, not original on the north wall of the Depot, will be removed and the wall rebuilt to the original configuration. Siding will be placed on that wall in addition to the rotted wall sections rebuilt last summer. Gable vents will be installed to provide ventilation to the attic. The **Montana History Foundation** awarded MNHG a grant of \$3000 for this project and **NorthWestern Energy** awarded \$1000.

### **Why is MNHG Restoring the Monarch Great Northern Railway Depot?**

One reason is the following Cascade County resolution, 13-48: BEFORE THE BOARD OF CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IS THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF COUNTY PROPERTY TO THE MONARCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY. RESOLUTION 13-48. **WHEREAS**, the authority to give away such property must contain provisions that require the recipient or subsequent transferee to preserve the property in its present or restored state, and that provide for the reversion of the property to the county for noncompliance with this condition.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that pursuant to MCA 7-8-2211(4), the undersign Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of the Monarch Depot property, which is further described in the quitclaim deed, to the Monarch Neihart Historical Group, Inc., subject to the express condition that the property be preserved or restored. Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013. Signed by Cascade County Commissioners Joe Briggs, Bill Salina, and Jane Weber.

Because of the holes in the roof and rotted walls, MNHG Board of Directors determined the GN Depot could not be preserved in its dilapidated condition, therefore, restoration commenced.

**Great Northern Railway c.1916 Double Privy Reroofing.** Two MNHG Board members have volunteered to remove the metal roofing and replace the wood sheathing on the historic Privy and shingle it to match the Depot. While the Privy interior is exposed, necessary repairs will be made to whatever is blocking the door from opening on the Men's side. This historic Privy is unique in that it might be the only remaining Great Northern Privy from Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota to Seattle and Portland. A GN researcher who researched GN Privies provided this information along with the original 1890 and 1916 GN privy construction plans. A grant has been written to cover the cost of this project.

**Corrugated Metal Siding.** The Board of Directors will soon be removing the unattractive corrugated metal siding on the Depot to expose the original wood siding. Volunteers are welcome to help with this project on **May 15**.

**Monarch Rocks! Festival.** The third annual Monarch Rocks! Festival will take place on **August 13** as a fund raiser for the Depot restoration. The Drover Car Caboose and the historic GN Depot will be open for walk-throughs. The Skunkwagon Car Club will have a restored car exhibit and the 1913 Ford owned by Rev. Snow will be on display. Rev. Snow preached in the Monarch/Neihart area from 1914 – 1927 at the Methodist church. The large and the small of horses will be displayed. Wagon rides provided by Tom and Ted Jones, two Belgian horses, and a petting zoo of miniature horses will be part of the Festival along with gentle guitar music, vendors, and much more. Food will be provided by **Electric City Concessions**.

Grants MNHG has received thus far in 2016: **Montana History Foundation**, \$3000. **NorthWestern Energy**: \$1000.

**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.**

Please visit our website for photos of all MNHG projects. [www.mnhg.org](http://www.mnhg.org)

**This newsletter costs \$.29 per copy for paper, printing, and postage, written by volunteers. Donations to cover these costs would be appreciated. We mail 2500 Newsletters two times a year.**

The MNHG Board of Directors meets the **second Saturday of the month in the Drover Car Caboose**. Meeting notifications are posted in the Monarch and Neihart post offices or email: [mnhg@3rivers.net](mailto:mnhg@3rivers.net) for meeting information. Please stop by and join us.

MNHG has vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you like history and want some fun, you can join the MNHG Board of Directors by contacting [mnhg@3rivers.net](mailto:mnhg@3rivers.net).

**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**

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

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